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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you intend to participate in the 24th Annual Red Cross Walkathon on Saturday, March 27?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Helping Hands

Fourth-grade students of WSR Elementary School get together to help victims of Haiti.

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Earth Hour

On March 27, CNMI residents and businesses are encouraged to turn off their lights for an hour.

ENVIRONMENT...Page 17

Hard Ten

The very title "She's Out of My League" might scare mere mortals away but not Alice Eve.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

5 top GTC science fair, advance to islandwide contest. PAGE 2
New program offers rebates for Energy Star appliances. PAGE 3

'NMI tobacco fund not being used properly, posts $2.865M deficit'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Appropriations out of the CNMI's Tobacco Control Fund exceeded actual revenue by more than $2.865 million between Fiscal Years 2003 and 2009, and $7 million or 72 percent of the $9.97 million received by the Fund was used for programs not related to the original intent of the law.

These were some of the key findings of the Office of the Public Auditor, which released yesterday its Tobacco Control Fund Status Inspection Report dated March 9, 2010.

Public Auditor Michael Pai said the Office of the Public Auditor concluded that the Fund "has become merely a re-

See TOBACCO on Page 4

CNMI BIDS GOODBYE to its first lieutenant governor

» Hundreds pay tribute, share fond memories of Francisco C. Ada

Former Lt. Gov. Francisco C. Ada's daughters, son, and their spouses carry their father's casket to the front door of the Mount Carmel Cathedral after the Mass of Christian Burial, and on to the proper burial at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery yesterday noon. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, and their Cabinet members pay their last respects to former Lt. Gov. Francisco C. Ada during a State Memorial Service at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former CNMI governors Pedro P. Tenorio, left, Carlos S. Camacho, second from right, and Juan N. Babauta, back, their spouses and former lieutenant governors, bid farewell to the CNMI's first lieutenant governor, Francisco C. Ada. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds paid their last respects yesterday to the CNMI's first lieutenant governor, Francisco Castro Ada, whose public service has become an important part of the Commonwealth's history and whose passion for life inspired many in the community.

See GOODBYE on Page 4

Commonwealth schools haul medals in Guam Chamorro language contest

» Five gold, nine silver, five bronze medals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

CNMI schools emerged victorious in this year's Chamorro Language Competition in Guam where they bagged major awards and dominated almost all contest categories during intense rounds Tuesday at the University of Guam campus.

Thirty-one schools from Guam and the CNMI competed in various categories in elementary, junior high school, and high school divisions.

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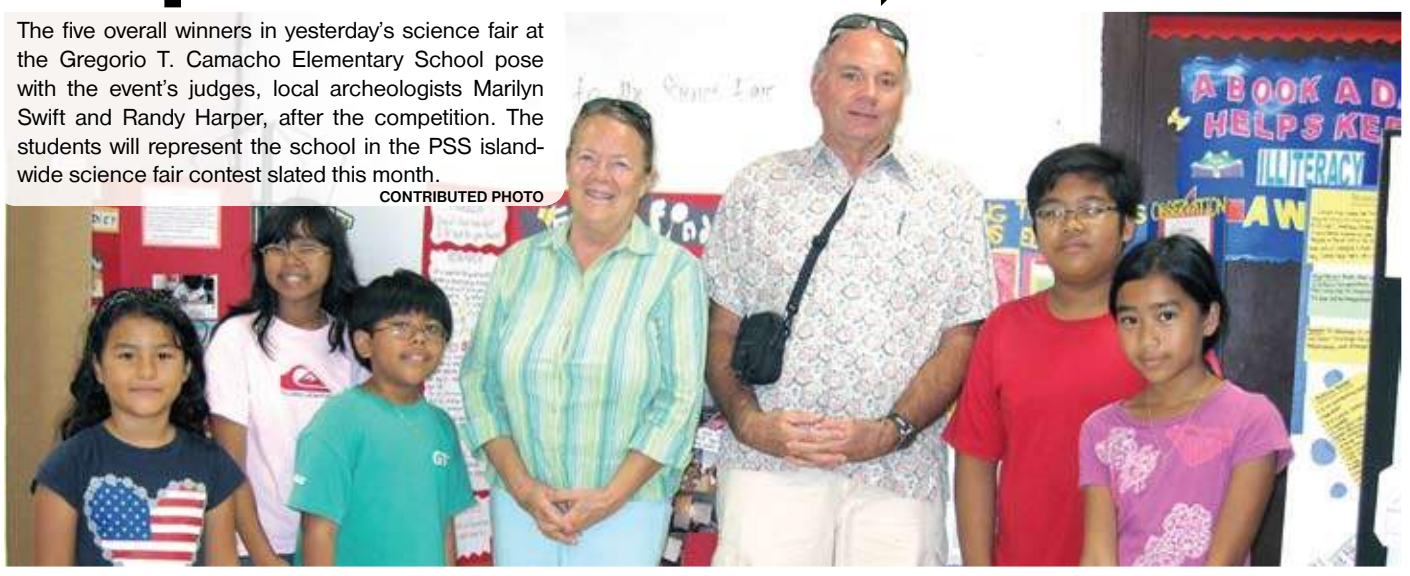
Local

5 top GTC science fair, advance to islandwide contest



The five overall winners in yesterday's science fair at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School pose with the event's judges, local archeologists Marilyn Swift and Randy Harper, after the competition. The students will represent the school in the PSS islandwide science fair contest slated this month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Five students were named overall winners yesterday in the annual science fair of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

The win earned Patrick Agustin, Angela Aninon, Ha'ane Eugenio, Miguel Aninon, and Kelsey Conlon the honor to represent GTC in this month's Public School System islandwide competition.

Agustin's entry about isolating hydrogen from water was adjudged best in his division, along with Angela Aninon's entry on the greenhouse effect. Both winners are sixth graders.

Ha'ane Eugenio's project also drew positive remarks from event judges Marilyn Swift and Randy Harper, as she explained the longevity of soap bubbles.

An entry that highlights the levels of Vitamin C in beverages, created by fourth grader Miguel Aninon, is also expected to attract attention in the islandwide contest, along with second grader Kesley Conlon's project, which was about extracting DNA from strawberries.

The PSS islandwide science fair is slated on March 20 at the Marianas High School gymnasium. Top winners will represent the CNMI in a similar competition in Guam.

According to GTC vice principal Martin Dalsaso, the criterion rubrics used in yesterday's fair had three main components: scientific procedure, originality, and simplicity. Each criterion, he said, has sub-categories totaling 12 for the overall rubrics.

"It is the event's objective for our students to apply knowledge learned in the classroom, apply knowledge gained through research and parental involvement, take that knowledge and create an interesting real-life hypothesis, then try to prove or disprove it through the scientific process," Dalsaso said.

The GTC Science Fair is an annual event held in the third quarter of the school year, culminating with the PSS Science Technology and Mathematics (STEM) Fair. Students, parents, and teachers begin preparing and thinking about possible projects throughout the school year.

GTC had 25 science fair entries at the school level this year.

Last year, GTC teachers, students and staff held a Parent Learning Fair, with one workshop titled "How to Create a Science Project." This workshop specifically targeted parental involvement, with examples of past successful science projects presented by students and teachers explaining strategies to better understand and create interesting and informative science projects.

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Ex-convict awaiting sentencing allegedly admits using 'ice' twice

The U.S. Probation Office now wants the pre-trial release of an ex-convict be revoked after a probation officer allegedly found out that he used methamphetamine or "ice" on two occasions.

Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to revoke the pre-trial release of Dexter Ulloa Maratita, who is awaiting sentencing for possession of a firearm.

Brunson said Maratita admitted to smoking "ice" on Feb. 1 and 28.

Maratita pleaded guilty in November last year to the charge of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. His sentencing was set for March 24, 2010.

Maratita has a prior conviction for theft in 1997.

The plea agreement stated that on March 16, 2009, Maratita sold a Colt .25 semi-automatic pistol to a "cooperating source" of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

He was allowed to post bail using a $20,000 unsecured bond on Oct. 20, 2009, subject to many conditions.

In her recommendation to revoke the pre-trial release, Brunson said that Maratita violated the condition that barred him from using a controlled substance.

Brunson said that on Feb. 1, Maratita told her that he used the $25 given him by his wife to play poker and that with an additional $25 win, he used all the money to buy "ice."

Brunson said she then received information that Maratita actually used the $50 to buy "ice" but withdrew $100 from a joint savings account he holds with his wife and used that money to play poker and buy more "ice."

Brunson said she confronted Maratita with this information on March 1, during which the defendant apologized and stated he thought he had shared this information with her.

That same night, the probation officer said, Maratita went to Marianas Counseling Services for drug testing and tested presumptive positive for "ice."

She said Maratita admitted smoking "ice" on Feb. 28 after buying $20 worth of the drug from a known dealer. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

New program to offer rebates for Energy Star appliances

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

CNMI households that are thinking of replacing their old refrigerators, washing machines, or air conditioning units should do so beginning April 1 this year.

That's when the CNMI Division of Energy will launch its Energy Star Appliance Rebate program, which will give away rebate vouchers to consumers who will replace their old appliances with Energy Star-rated ones.

Qualified refrigerators and clothes washers will both be granted a $300 rebate while qualified room air conditioning units will be granted $150 rebates. The program, funded by a $100,000 stimulus fund grant, covers only these three appliances, according to the division's Web site.

The vouchers will be given away for a limited time until funds run out.

Right now, the Energy Division still in the process of determining which retailers will be offering the three types of Energy Star-qualified products.

Individuals interested in obtaining vouchers can apply on a first-come, first-serve basis at the CNMI Energy Office on Capitol Hill. Vouchers may also be printed from the Web site at www.cnmienergy.com.

All vouchers must be signed and submitted to the CNMI Energy Division office in order to qualify. Those with disabilities can make arrangements with the division for paperwork to be signed and picked up simultaneously. Picture identification and a copy of a recent Commonwealth Utilities Corp. utility bill are required at the time of application.

All applicants must sign a release of CUC billing information for data collection and analysis purposes three months before and six months after buying new Energy Star appliances.

There is a limit of one voucher per product type per household.

Applicants must also agree to surrender their old appliances to the program recycler no later than two weeks after receiving receipt of their replacement appliance(s). Applicants must also give recyclers directions to their homes in order to pick up the used appliances.

Energy Star currently offers hundreds of appliances, electronics, computers, plumbing and building products, fans, and lighting products. Freezers, boilers, fans, light fixtures, battery chargers, and windows are not included in the CNMI rebate program.

Visit www.energystar.gov for the complete list of products and brand names.

Repatriation of dead man's body needs OAG clearance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The remains of fatal assault victim Larry Gonzales will be repatriated to the Philippines after clearing the Office of the Attorney General.

Miriam Buatis, a friend of Gonzales, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they were planning to send Gonzales' body to Oriental Mindoro, the Philippines, by next week.

She could not specify an exact date yet as the Philippine Consulate General had advised them that the OAG should clear it first so as not to jeopardize the case against the suspect.

The Philippine Consulate General has been processing all papers needed for the repatriation, Buatis said.

The OAG is expected to allow the repatriation as the autopsy on Gonzales was already completed last Friday.

Buatis said that telecommunications firm IT&E has promised to shoulder Gonzales' repatriation expenses, while a local family provided a coffin.

She said the $2,000 they collected during last Saturday's hot lunch fundraising at Kilili Beach will go to Gonzales' family.

About $500, however, will be paid to a catering company for the materials used, Buatis said. Kalayaan Catering donated resources for the fundraising, she added.

Buatis is appealing to the community for more donations. She can be contacted at 287-0227 or at 235-1225.

United Filipino Organization president Olive Yana is also accepting donations. She can be reached at 285-7893 or 234-6529.

The autopsy conducted by Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio Espinola indicated that the 37-year-old Gonzales died due to brain contusion and laceration.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong earlier said that Espinola had determined that Gonzales' cause of death was from a subdural hematoma.

"This was caused by a brain contusion, laceration due to blunt trauma," Tarkong said.

Subdural hematoma, also called subdural hemorrhage, is usually the result of a serious head injury.

Last Thursday, police arrested 22-year-old Shane Jonathan Hocog, who allegedly punched Gonzales near Kagman High School on March 1, causing him to fall and hit his head on the pavement. Hours later, Gonzales was in a coma and three days later, he was dead.

Police served the arrest warrant on Hocog in Kagman on charges of voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $100,000 cash bail plus many other conditions.

Gonzales, a 37-year-old Filipino, was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on Thursday at 4:45pm due to severe head injury.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that on March 1 at 5:35pm a disturbance was reported to DPS. Manacop said a responding police officer learned that a male person, later identified as Hocog, had punched the victim in the face. Gonzales fell and hit his head on the concrete pavement. He lost consciousness in the process.

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Guam firm gets $21M military construction contract

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded a $21 million firm-fixed-price contract March 4 to DCK-ECC Pacific Guam Construction, LLC of Harmon for the construction of new electrical infrastructure at Andersen Air Force Base.

"Andersen requires a high degree of reliability for the electrical system that serves aircraft operational areas, flight line maintenance, and other critical missions," said Cmdr. Matt Suess, NAVFAC Marianas executive officer. "This project will deliver vital upgrades to the base's power system through the construction of a new electrical substation, new distribution feeders and switching stations."

"This new electrical infrastructure will directly support the Air Force's ability to strike rapidly and effectively anywhere throughout the Pacific," said Lt. Col. Frederick Frostic, commander of 36th Operations Support Squadron.

SCHOOLS

From Page 1

The Commonwealth was represented by 10 schools from Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

Yesterday, student delegates from the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School came home with three gold medals, a bronze, and a silver from the competition.

According to GTC acting vice principal Martin Dalsaso, Kimberly Camacho, Breanna Camacho, and Arianne Narvaez won first place honors, with Kimberly Camacho dominating the oratorical category; Breanna Camacho winning for story telling; and Arianne Narvaez for poetry. Nolan Gatharngeg got a bronze medal for spelling, while Angelika Narvaez won another bronze medal for spelling in her division.

The group was accompanied by teacher-coaches Rose Taimanao and Jennie Magofna.

Marianas High School also bagged a gold medal award, three silver medals, and two bronze medals in various categories.

According to Anita Sablan, one of the team's coaches, Joyce Camacho won first place in the poetry competition while Monica Greer and Agustin Naputi both emerged with silver medals in the female and male singing categories.

Josephine Ada, meanwhile, won second place for oratory in her division.

MHS sent 40 students to this year's competition. Ten members took second place in dramatic interpretation and another 10-member group topped the song and dance category.

Sablan said MHS, through its Chamorro Club, has been participating in the Guam competition in the past six years, bringing honors and recognition to the school every year.

The group was accompanied by coaches Sablan, Patty Cruz, Alvin Sablan, Jojo Alepuyo, Jocelyn Itibus, Lumi Bermudes, Bobby Cruz, and MHS principal Karen Borja.

From Rota High School, Chamorro Club adviser Elvira Manglona happily announced a medal haul comprising a gold medal, three silver medals, one bronze medal, and a special recognition for a team member.

Manglona said Maryann Ulloa won first place in the oratorical category in her division; Albert Alfred Manglona emerged second place in the proficiency category; Laura Angela Manglona won second place in poetry; and Blaine Messngon got second place in the male singing category.

The RHS team was also named the third best group in dramatic interpretation and Elisa Taisacan was recognized for her performance on the ukulele.

Rota High School sent seven members of the school's Chamorro Club.

Elvira Manglona, in a phone interview from Guam, praised organizers and judges for the competition's "excellent" results.

"We're very happy and I am so proud of our team!" she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that despite the short period of rehearsals and preparation, students managed to give outstanding performances.

Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia Demapan, who accompanied her students to Guam, also went home with a silver and bronze medals: Benen Iguel won second place in story telling and Keith Villagomez emerged third place in the spelling category.

From Tinian, the 40-member group went home yesterday with a silver medal for its outstanding performance in the children's choir category.

Vice principal Dionne Santos said the students also competed in other categories such as story telling, spelling, and choral reading.

Santos described this year's competition as stiffer and more challenging.

To qualify for the Guam Chamorro Language competition, elementary students must be winners in the PSS regional round of the Primary Grade Forensic League.

This year marked the seventh year of the competition.

GOODBYE

From Page 1

Ada's wife, Ines, their seven children and their spouses, 16 grandchildren and one great grandchild, were joined by hundreds at a state funeral, Mass, and burial rites that lasted from 8am to 1pm.

"We are overwhelmed by the show of respect to our father by people who came out here. We want to continue my father's legacy and will continue to instill in our children the value of education and family," his only son, Frank Ada Jr., told *Saipan Tribune* after the burial at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

After the state funeral, Ada's casket, draped in a CNMI flag, was brought to the Mount Carmel Cathedral for a Mass officiated by Bishop Tomas A. Camacho and other priests.

Ada's daughters, son, and their spouses guided his casket from the cathedral's interior to the front door, where a cadre of Department of Public Safety officers took over in bringing the casket to the cemetery. A long procession of mourners followed.

At 12:30pm, the sobs were replaced by the sounds of a 19-gun salute at the cemetery, followed by the placing of ribbons and throwing of flowers on the casket. The sobs turned to cries, but family and friends were there to comfort each other.

Ada served as lieutenant governor of the CNMI's first governor, Carlos S. Camacho, from 1978 to 1981. Camacho and his wife were among the hundreds who paid his last respects to Ada yesterday.

Ada was also the district administrator for the islands during the Trust Territory days in the early 1970s.

Ada passed away on March 2 at the Commonwealth Health Center due to a lingering illness. He was 75.

'Lifelong teacher'

At the Mount Carmel Cathedral, Frank Ada Jr. shared his and his siblings' memories of their lifelong teacher—their father.

He said their father shared with them his love of music, books, languages, and local and global current affairs.

"He shared with us the rich history of the Marianas and those of our Micronesian neighbors. Our father was a proud Chamorro. He was equally proud to call himself a Micronesian," his son said.

The late Ada was also never without a book. One of the last books he was reading before he fell ill was *Presidential Courage* by Michael Beschloss, said his son. He also had a flair for languages, and loved to cite phrases to his children in Latin, German, Spanish, and Japanese.

"During the last decade of his life, our father occupied himself with caring for us and the grandkids. All he wanted was to make our lives easier. …The passing of our father will leave a tremendous void in our lives. He was indeed our rock. Though his last years were difficult, he showed tremendous strength and grace. He is at peace now and in God's hands," his son said.

Fr. Ryan Jimenez said Ada "wore his faith on his sleeves," recalling how Ada would regularly go to Mass with his portable oxygen.

Ada's granddaughter, Nicole Ada, 20, along with her sisters, described their grandfather as "loving, caring, strong, wise, gracious and humble." Nicole Ada traveled from Portland, Oregon to Saipan for the funeral.

"All of us grandchildren are here, along with our moms and dads," she said.

Ada, who was born on Sept. 26, 1934, is survived by his wife Ines Seman Ada, and their seven children: former Commonwealth Development Authority director MaryLou Ada, former Northern Marianas College Board of Regents member Eloise Furey, attorney Lillian Tenorio, NMI Retirement Fund internal auditor Esther Ada, Office of Personnel Management's chief of classification and compensation Frank C. Ada Jr., Dr. Norma Ada, and Luciana Schubert.

State funeral

Current and former CNMI governors and lieutenant governors, other elected officials, businessmen, and private citizens took turns paying tribute to Ada's life and work at the State Memorial Service, which started at 8am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said it is with great honor that the CNMI government is gathered in the presence of Ada's family to honor his "dedicated service" to the islands.

"Lt. Gov. Ada was an important part of our history and our community's development. To his credit, the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport stands as a constant reminder of his enduring leadership and his passion for public service. He will be missed by many in our local community. But his contributions will live on," Fitial said at the state funeral.

Besides being the CNMI's first lieutenant governor and district administrator, Ada also served as a member of the Saipan Municipal Congress, the Mariana Islands District Legislature, a delegate for the Trust Territory Government to the South Pacific Commission, an assistant district administrator, deputy resident commissioner, and vice president and general manager of Triple J.

Robert H. Jones, president and chief executive officer of Triple J Enterprises Inc., delivered a eulogy in English, right after Vicente N. Santos delivered a eulogy in Chamorro.

'Forever indebted to him'

Many of those at the state funeral had fond memories of Ada, whom Fitial described as "a pioneer who launched a new era in the CNMI's economic development, a man who set the stage to transform our islands into a major tourist destination in the Pacific."

Former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, who was among those at the state funeral, said he might not have finished high school, gone to college, and become a CNMI governor were it not for Ada.

Babauta remembers how homesick he was when he was studying in high school in Vermont, and how he asked his parents to seek Ada's help—as district administrator at that time—for his return to Saipan.

"Knowing how Mr. Ada values education, I believe that's one of the reasons why he refused to take action to have me sent back to Saipan. Had he granted my and my parents' wish, I would have never finished school and done things in my life. I credit him for that. I will always be indebted to him," said Babauta, who was the CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C. before being elected governor.

Former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, who grew up with Ada, said they remained close friends throughout the years and they both shared a dedication to public service.

Tenorio, who was with his wife Sophie at Ada's state funeral and Mass, also remembers watching baseball games in Guam when they were still in high school. Tenorio served as CNMI governor for three terms, the first one was right after Ada and Camacho's term.

Four of the six governors who have served the CNMI—Benigno R. Fitial, Juan N. Babauta, Pedro P. Tenorio, and Carlos S. Camacho—were at Ada's state funeral. Larry Deleon Guerrero, the third elected governor, had already passed away. Former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, who is now the speaker of the House of Representatives, was absent from the state funeral.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) led the Senate's presentation of a commemorative resolution to Ada's family, while House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) led other members of the House in presenting their own resolution. The mayors and members of municipal councils also presented their resolutions.

CNMI justices and judges, Cabinet members, other government officials and members of the public also bid farewell at the latter part of the state funeral, whose master of ceremony was Herbert S. DelRosario.

TOBACCO

From Page 1

serve for the General Fund."

"OPA's major recommendation was to have the Tobacco Control Fund merged with the General Fund. This would simplify the budgeting process and allow greater transparency in the budgeting and accounting process," Pai said in a letter to Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

Acting Finance Secretary Bob Schrack concurred with OPA's recommendation.

"Declining Fund revenues, over-appropriation of revenues and confusing language in the appropriation laws has made it very difficult to manage the distribution of the revenues collected by the Fund," he told OPA.

Public Law 13-38, signed on Dec. 13, 200, created the Tobacco Control Fund. It increased taxes on various "sin" items such as cigarettes to discourage their use and reduce the physical abuse on the user.

The tax increased the "sin tax" on a pack of cigarettes to $1.75 per pack, with the goal of raising the tax to $2 a pack by 2010. Of this increase, 30 percent was to be deposited into the Tobacco Control Fund.

The law named four major programs that would benefit from the proceeds: Department of Public Health for the monitoring of morbidity and mortality of cancer and other tobacco-related illnesses; prenatal and maternal care; school health education programs; and workplace-based and community smoking prevention and smoking cessation programs.

However, OPA's review of the Fund's appropriation laws showed that many of the programs given the money do not fall into the categories stated in the original bill or have a questionable nexus with tobacco and related programs and activities.

Of the $9.97 million received by the Tobacco Control Fund, at least $7 million or 72 percent was spent on programs unrelated to P.L. 13-38's criteria.

These include over $3 million in emergency transfers to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., over $1.3 million to the Diabetes Control Program, over $1.2 million to the Group Health and Life Insurance Program, a $40,000 purchase of a van and a $20,000 roof repair.

OPA said by allocating funds to these various unrelated programs, the intended purpose of the Fund has been circumvented.

"From these actions, it would appear that the Fund has become merely a reserve for the General Fund with no relationship to the original legislative intent and taxing objectives. Regardless of the amount, the deficit is real and will impact various beneficiaries of the Fund in future years," OPA said.

OPA recommended to the Legislature to consider eliminating the Tobacco Control Fund and allow the revenues and unresolved appropriations to flow to the General Fund.

Alternatively, it recommends to lawmakers to amend and delay the enactment of PL 16-39 until such time as the Fund becomes solvent.

CUC: $17M needed to solve Saipan's water problems

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would need at least $17 million to solve all water-related problems on Saipan, according to Abe Utu Malae, CUC assistant executive director, citing estimates made by CUC's chief of engineering for the Water and Wastewater Division.

If the entire amount is made available, it should cover the complete abandonment and capping off of some lines and replacing leaking lines in all areas and villages of the island, Malae said.

He said the recent announcement of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about the availability of $6 million for water and $5 million for sewer projects in the CNMI this fiscal year would help minimize CUC's costs.

Malae plans to begin the repair work by the beginning of next month.

Last week, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro and her colleagues, Reps. Stanley Torres and Edmund Villagomez, visited Malae to find out more about water rationing and CUC's plan to provide 24/7 service in Precinct 3.

With key officials in the Water and Wastewater Division, Malae said that leaking pipes are causing the water shortage in the reservoirs. As a result, operating hours sometimes have to be shortened. Even though there may be sufficient water for the entire area, a significant amount of water is getting lost underground, he said.

Malae

"A water team is assigned to install gate valves or repair gate valves, isolate and replace short laterals, and then finally restore service. The result is that leaky sections are replaced and service improves," he explained.

Malae asked the lawmakers to give CUC the names of specific families who may have water service problems—not because of rationing but due to other causes—so that CUC field crews, technicians and engineers could respond to each one. The medium range solution, he said, is to replace as many of the leaking old pipes in the distribution system as much as possible.

Malae said that metering is another short-to-medium term solution that has far reaching effects. "When all customers are metered and water is properly accounted for, consumption drops, system pressure improves, and chlorination and pumping costs fall. When less water is pumped, the aquifers also have time to recuperate."

CUC earlier said it may take three years to complete metering. Lawmakers say this projection is too long.

"We all agreed that CUC must invest sufficient resources in the metering project to complete it by end of 2010," said Malae.

CUC records show that it has 10,000 water customers on island. It has 146 wells, 16 storage tanks/reservoirs, and 18 booster stations.

CUC earlier disclosed it has been losing a significant volume of water for many years now: for every 10 gallons of water pumped, only four to five gallons are being billed while the rest is considered "loss" due to some factors, such as "unbilled usage" or stolen water and leaking water pipes.

DPH adjusts salaries of doctors, nurses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has started adjusting the salaries of deserving medical personnel as a means to lower the turnover rate of medical employees, said Secretary Kevin Villagomez.

This effort, Villagomez said, has resulted in many doctors expressing interest to stay on at the Commonwealth Health Center.

"We're still working on the salary adjustments but some of them have already been provided [the adjustments], that's why doctors are staying," he told *Saipan Tribune* during Tuesday's inauguration of two new school buildings at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

The exodus of physicians from the lone public hospital on island is blamed on the unattractive salary and benefits offered to qualified candidates.

To date, Villagomez said, the hospital already has 38 physicians onboard and that he intends to sustain this stable number of doctors with attractive packages.

"What we do is we factor out how much it costs us to bring in short-term doctors to cover the period that we need them to be covered. We calculate items such as airline cost, moving cost, and salary. Then we calculate how much we spend in a year. Instead of doing that, we offer that amount as a salary package to our doctors…and they stay on," Villagomez explained.

The CNMI's salary package for physicians is among the lowest compared to neighboring islands and states in the U.S. Hospital officials earlier recommended increasing doctor's salaries but this was never done due to the limited budget.

Villagomez said a similar adjustment will be provided to hospital nurses but he declined to cite any amount or sources of funding, saying everything will be incorporated in the proposed budget he will submit to the administration this month.

Saipan Tribune learned that CHC currently has 235 nurses, 75 percent of whom are nonresidents.

"Some of them will get 10 percent…we're still working the adjustments for our nurses," he added.

Early this year, the department reinstated the housing allowance for nonresident hires after several nurses expressed intention to resign after the benefit was scrapped.

CHC is still on emergency declaration due to the shortage of doctors and other services. The declaration is expected to stay a bit longer as a result of federalization that adversely affects the hospital's hiring process from off-island.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, March 12, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. Executive Session
- a. Legal Updates
- b. Personnel Matters
- c. Other matters

IV. Old Business
- a. Legal Counsel Position

V. New Business
- a. Senate Local Bill No. 17-01
- b. House Bill No. 17-22, HD 1
- c. Head Start Expansion Grant Application

VI. Miscellaneous Matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

1 Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
2 Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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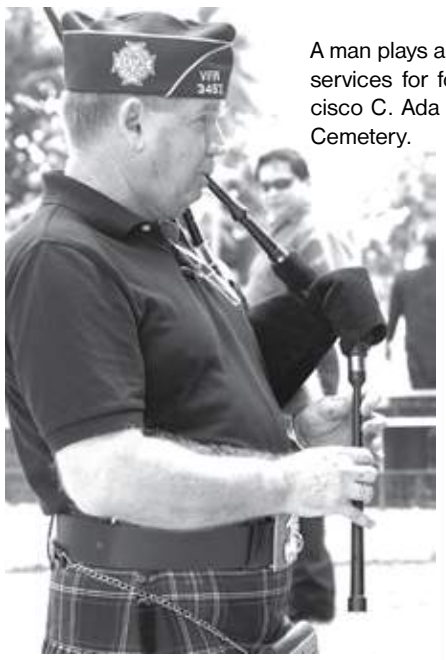
State Funeral for Francisco C. Ada

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho leads the Mass of Christian Burial for the late Francisco C. Ada, the CNMI's first lieutenant governor and district administrator during the Trust Territory era, at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



A man plays a bagpipe at the burial services for former Lt. Gov. Francisco C. Ada at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Family members of the late Francisco C. Ada lead the procession of Ada's casket from the Mount Carmel Cathedral to the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Department of Public Safety police officers led by Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero, center, carry the casket of former Lt. Gov. Francisco C. Ada from the Mount Carmel Cathedral to the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), right, and Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) presents Ines S. Ada with a copy of a Senate commemorative resolution honoring the life and work of her late husband, former Lt. Gov. Francisco C. Ada.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and other members of the 17th Legislature bid farewell to the late Francisco C. Ada, whose casket was draped in a CNMI flag during a State Memorial Service at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Supreme Court and Superior Court judges and justices bid farewell to former Lt. Gov. Francisco C. Ada at the State Memorial Service.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The late Francisco C. Ada's wife, Ines S. Ada, center, son Frank Ada Jr., right, and their family listen to one of the speakers during the State Memorial Service.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, are joined by former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, right, and former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, back left, at the State Memorial Service for former Lt. Gov. Francisco C. Ada.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former Public Lands Secretary John DelRosario, left, plays the guitar as people sang *Palasyon Riko* to end the State Memorial Service for former Lt. Gov. Francisco C. Ada.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Jurors deliberate case vs man accused of abusing 2 boys

Superior Court jurors began deliberations yesterday in the ongoing trial of a man accused of sexually abusing two boys.

The seven jurors started deliberations in the case against Shafiqul Islam in the afternoon after associate judge David Wiseman gave the jury instructions. The jurors are going to continue their deliberation today, Thursday.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher and assistant public defender Michael Brown completed their closing arguments shortly before noon yesterday.

Gallagher said there is sufficient evidence to convict the 40-year-old Islam. The two alleged victims testified in court.

Brown said the prosecution failed to present evidence to support the charges so the jurors should return a not-guilty verdict.

Islam is on trial for allegedly sexually abusing a 12-year-old boy in exchange for $2. He also allegedly attempted to sexually abuse an 11-year-old boy.

The incidents allegedly occurred in a room at the Muslim mosque in Garapan between August and September 2009.

Islam denied the allegations. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PSS special education program sets public hearing

The Public School System's Special Education Program will conduct public hearings to solicit comments from the community, including comments from individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities, about the new or the revised Special Education policies and procedures. All comments will be considered prior to the submission of the special education grant applicant on May 10, 2010.

Meeting dates, times and location are:

- Tinian: March 15, 2010, 5:30-6:30 at the Tinian High School Library
- Saipan: March 16, 5:30-6:30, 2nd floor of the Retirement building VTC room
- Rota: March 18, 5:30-6:30, Sinapalo Elementary School Cafeteria

Comments may be submitted in writing or orally at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted to the Special Education Program Office, 2nd floor of the Retirement Building, no later than 4:30pm, March 30, 2010.

For questions or comments about the public hearing, call the Special Education Program at 237-3029. ***(PR)***

Comments sought on education bill

Sen. Pete P. Reyes, chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, is inviting all interested individuals to comment on Senate Bill 17-07, "To amend Public Law No. 14-37 regarding the CNMI Honor Scholarship Program; and for other purposes." To obtain a copy of the legislation, visit the Legislature's Web site at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or call (670) 664-8868. Testimonies must be received on or before Monday, March 22, 2010. ***(PR)***

NMC Alumni Association Mixer on March 11

The Northern Marianas College Alumni Association will be hosting a mixer meeting at the Seaside Bar & Grill at the Pacific Islands Club on Thursday, March 11, 2010, from 5pm to 7pm. All NMC alumni (those who have earned 24 or more credits) are encouraged to attend, as many topics will be discussed, such as the upcoming NMC Alumni Membership Card. The card program is expected to entail savings at various establishments in the CNMI. Prizes will also be distributed! For more information contact Jack Kiyoshi at 234-5498 ext.1022 or email jackk@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Puengin Inetnon this Friday in Kagman

Puengin Inetnon will be held Friday at the Kagman Community Center parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market, which begin at 4:30pm and ends at 10pm. This week's vendors feature Lynn's Barbeque, Fong's, Champs Shave Ice, and The Library Bookmobile.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman every Friday night. Interested vendors can call 256-7678 or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Farmers, fishermen invited to Kagman Night Market

The Kagman Komunidat Association is inviting farmers and fishermen to the Kagman Friday Night Markets to sell produce and fish. All fees will be waived for first time sellers. Call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more information. ***(PR)***

KagES to host 'Spring Splash Dance'

To all parents and guardians of Kagman Elementary School students, the school and its Student Council will be hosting the Blue Marlins "Spring Splash Dance" this Friday, March 12, from 5pm to 8:30pm, at the school's cafeteria. Admission is $1 at the door. Students must have KagES tickets with parental permission. Tickets are non-refundable. Parents ar encouraged to attend and chaperone their children. ***(PR)***

Zoning Board execs on Marianas Agupa

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Herminia Fusco, chairperson of the Zoning Board, and Henry Hofschenider, member of the board, this Saturday, March 13, 2010, from 10am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. The two will discuss the zoning law, regulation and its ramification as it applies to businesses on Saipan. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Registration for Flame Tree Arts Festival now open

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Committee for the 29th Annual Flame Tree Art Festival said that registration for artists and food vendor's booths is now open at the Art Council Office. Interested participants may pick up application forms at the Arts Council Office from 8am to 4:30pm. The prices are as follows;

- Food vendors: $700 + $100 security deposit (refundable)
- Registered Artists: $150 + $100 security deposit (refundable)
- Non-registered artist: $50
- Non-profit Organization: $100 + $100 security deposit (refundable)
- Profit Organization: $300 + $100 security deposit (refundable)
- Community based/government: $10

For more information, call the Arts Council at 322-9982/ 3

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-070

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 22, 2010 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF SIX (6) LAPTOP COMPUTERS (RUGGED TABLE TOUGHBOOK MODEL) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY PROGRAM (MCSAP)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDRALLY FUNDED PROJECT: AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-071 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 22, 2010 **TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF THREE (3) LASER SPEED DETECTORS WITH VIDEO CAMERA CAPABILITY (2-CIF-SAIPAN, 1-CIF-ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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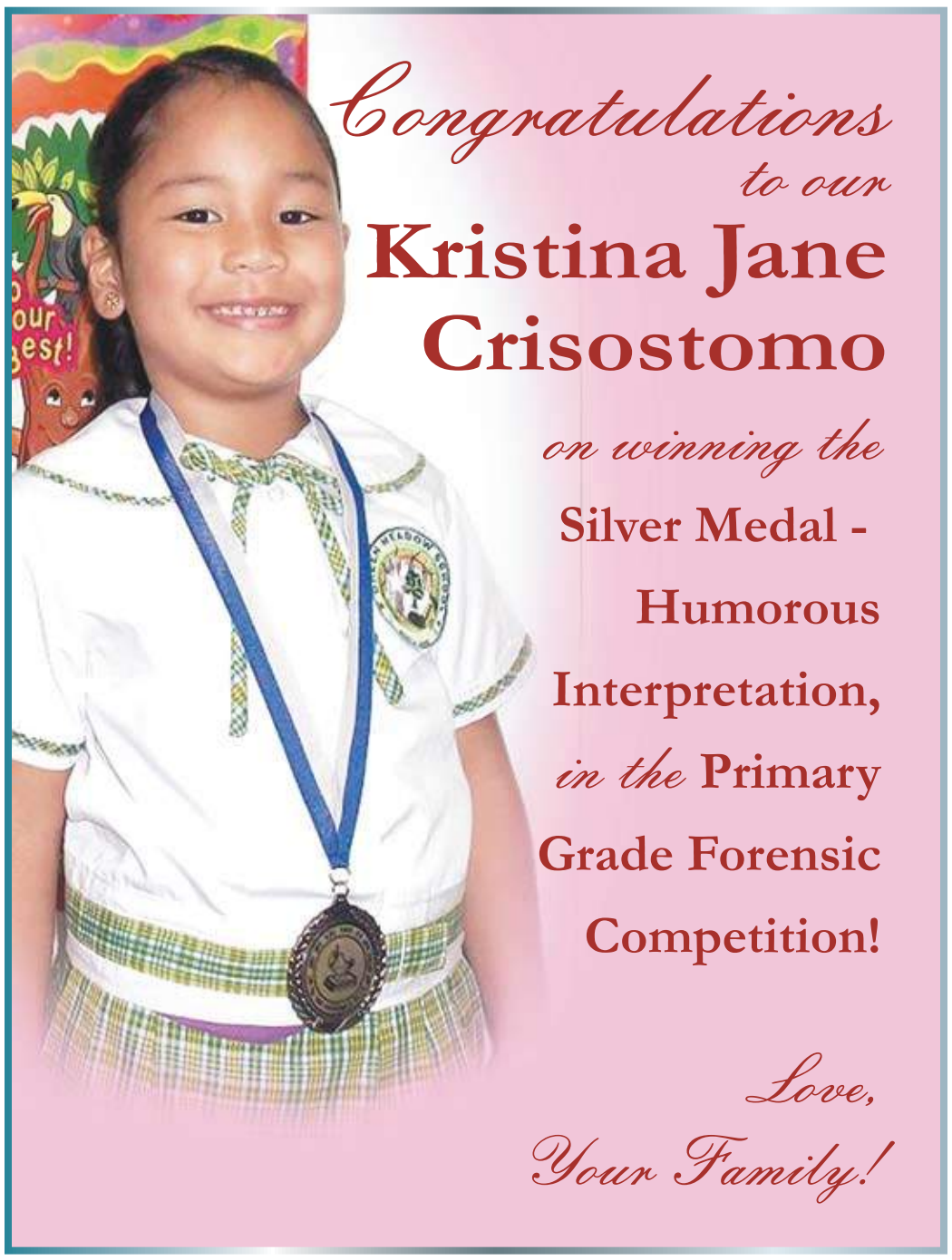

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Public School System Special Education Program will conduct public hearings in an effort to solicit comments from the community, including comments from individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities, regarding the new or the revised Special Education Policies and Procedures. All comments will be considered prior to the submission of the special education grant application on May 10, 2010. Meeting dates, times and locations are:

TINIAN
March 15, 2010, 5:30pm to 6:30pm, Tinian High School Library

SAIPAN
March 16, 2010, 5:30pm to 6:30pm 2nd Floor of the Retirement Building VTC Room

ROTA
March 18, 2010, 5:30pm to 6:30pm, Sinapalo Elementary School Cafeteria

Comments on the new or revised policies and procedures may be submitted in writing or orally at the meeting. Comments may also be submitted in writing to the Special Education Program Office, 2nd Floor of the Retirement Building, no later than 4:30pm, March 30, 2010.

For questions or comments regarding the public hearings, please call the Special Education Program at 237-3029.

/s/ Suzanne Lizama
Acting Special Education Coordinator

Teen known for stealing laptops arrested again

A teenager who is notorious for stealing laptops was arrested again, this time for alleged contempt of court.

Marvin Ringlen, 19, was arrested midnight of Friday after he was found intoxicated, in violation of the court's pre-trial release conditions.

During Monday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $1,000 cash bail for Ringlen's temporary liberty and set the preliminary hearing for March 16.

Govendo again required Ringlen to observe a 7pm to 6am daily curfew and barred him from consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages.

Detective Melinda Villanueva stated in her report that Ringlen was arrested in a previous criminal case, but Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman released him on Jan. 14 on an unsecured bond after the government agreed to the release.

Ringlen

Villanueva said that Wiseman imposed some conditions for the release, including a daily curfew and no alcoholic beverages.

Villanueva said that, on Feb. 22 at 12:56am, police officer Edwin Aguon responded to a report about a theft incident in Chalan Kanoa.

The detective said Aguon learned it was not a theft case but a contempt of court incident after he found Ringlen violating a curfew order and intoxicated at the time.

Ringlen allegedly admitted drinking two cans of beer at the Kappon Apartment.

Last January, Ringlen and three other persons were arrested after investigation showed they were responsible for the burglary at the Fun Fun Central Entertainment Center in Finasisu on June 29, 2009. In that incident, two laptop computers were stolen.

Ringlen's group then allegedly contacted an illegal drug supplier and traded the stolen items for methamphetamine or "ice."

In December 2009, presiding judge Robert Naraja sentenced Ringlen to three months and one day in jail for breaking into a barracks in San Antonio and stealing a laptop computer on Sept. 5, 2009. The judge gave him credit for the three months and one day that he had already served in jail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 11, 1999

Bank assets edge higher in 1998

While economic indicators in the Northern Marianas are on the downside, the half-a-billion-dollar banking industry showed a sign of hope amid a crisis, posting a modest growth of 2.5 percent to $535.97 million in 1998 from year-ago figures. Officials from the Department of Commerce said the $13.42 million increase was spurred by demand for cash which rose to $304.71 million during the same period from $277.98 million in 1997, or 9.6 percent hike. For the fourth straight year since 1994, bank assets have been climbing steadily, with the biggest growth logged in 1996 at $507.7 million, or 16.2 percent, compared to previous year's record.

Panel sets hearing on power project

A public hearing set for the new 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan will be held only after the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has completed an independent review of all proposals submitted for the project, according to legislators. The House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications is scheduling the town meeting to determine whether the government should back up the $120 million project that has been mired in controversy. PUTC chair Rep. David M. Apatang said the panel wants to make sure that the final CUC decision will not be in conflict with the provision of the proposed legislation.

March 11, 2002

MVA proposes initial permitting processes for free

In efforts to lure Chinese nationals to travel to the CNMI, the Marianas Visitors Authority proposed that initial processing for tourist visa be free of charge until such time that the tourism industry takes off. MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said in 2000 alone, 53 Chinese nationals traveled abroad and that the tourism sector is willing to work hard to get even a fraction of the said number. "If we get even 50,000 tourists out of that number, it would be a drop in the bucket," said Sablan. The board chair explained that in the meantime, instead of charging $25 for processing of tourist permit, the CNMI should follow a pattern of processing that would make the system free initially.

'Tourism campaign cost could reach $2M'

The administration may have to spend a conservative $1.5 million to $2 million for its Japan tourism campaign, based on the initial figures provided during last week's tourism strategic planning session. Quoting estimates mentioned during last week's presentation by the Tourism Strategic Planning Task Force, Marianas Visitors Authority acting Managing Director Vicky I. Benavente said the project's price tag is based on just five of the strategies that the task force is considering in implementing the project. "Right now, as far as the five that I have heard so far, the price tag would be at least a million and a half to $2 million. But this is where you will have money that it targeted towards specific campaigns, advertisements, or events, or things like the family market giveaways, or office ladies special promotion or a golf carnival. It's all very exciting," Benavente said.

March 11, 2003

Asiana to bolster NMI promotion

Asiana Airlines officials reiterated their commitment to the Northern Marianas despite grim reports of a slackening number of Korean travelers due to fears of possible war in the Pacific region. Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Wayne Pangelinan disclosed Sunday that Asiana Airlines officials led by Saipan office general manager Sung Jin Kim and senior vice president for Passenger Marketing and Sales Division Jae Hong Joo vowed to increase the airline's marketing strategy to promote the CNMI as a destination. Pangelinan met with the officials Saturday night to discuss the airline company's plans and how the MVA and the Commonwealth Ports Authority can help to increase passenger load.

NMI defends security funding needs

Homeland Security Advisor Jerry Crisostomo has invited his federal counterparts to conduct another needs assessment of how much it would actually cost to fully implement the federal program in the CNMI, amid the $3.5 million homeland security budget appropriation that's competitively up for grabs. Crisostomo, who recently returned from the Feb. 27-28 Homeland Security meeting in Washington D.C., said he has requested the national office to visit the CNMI and make an assessment of the area's actual needs. In sharp contrast to other states and territories, the CNMI cannot compete for the homeland security funding based on population size, according to Crisostomo.

Social Security rep sets Tinian, Rota visits

The Social Security Administration will be sending a representative to Tinian and Rota to accept social security number applications, reports on change of address, and answer questions about eligibility and programs administered by Social Security.

The representative will be on Tinian on Thursday, March 11, from 8am to 1pm, at the Community and Cultural Affairs Office located at the Tinian Gymnasium; and on Rota on Friday, March 12, from 10:30am to 4pm at the Office of Aging in Sinapalo village.

CONTACT INFO

Tel: 234-6203
Web site: www.socialsecurity.gov

Applicants for Social Security numbers must present original or certified copies of documents. First time U.S. citizen applicants must present their birth certificates, valid proofs of identity and must apply in person if age is 12 or above. For a replacement card, a U.S. citizen must present proof of their identity. A parent applying on behalf of a child must present valid proof of identity. Non-U.S. citizen applicants must present an original and valid passport and proof of their immigration status and work authorization in the CNMI, e.g., entry permit, umbrella permit, U.S. permanent residency card, I-94, etc.

The Social Security Administration makes quarterly visits to Tinian and Rota. Residents of these islands are urged to visit the representative during their scheduled visit. For more information, contact the Saipan office at 234-6203 or visit their Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov. ***(PR)***

3 Japanese media to run Saipan Marathon stories

Three Japanese media outlets were on Saipan last week to feature the annual Saipan Marathon, bringing over $58,000 worth of extra media exposure for this island resort destination.

Six staffers of *Running Style* magazine, *Nikkan Sports Shimbun* newspaper, and *Elle Online* covered the March 6 marathon, half-marathon and 10K event held, which attracted approximately 500 Japanese competitors to the Northern Mariana Islands.

MVA

Media reps of Japan's *Running Magazine, Nikkan Sports Shimbun*, and *Elle Online* with MVA marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta, second from right, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The media was on island to cover the Saipan Marathon on March 6, 2010.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority was pleased to be able to help facilitate media coverage by these major publications," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "It's a win-win situation. They get nice coverage of an attractive international marathon that is only a three-hour flight away from Japan, and the Northern Marianas gets cost-effective media exposure."

Running Style will feature the marathon on four full-color pages in their May 2010 issue. The bimonthly magazine has a circulation of 100,000 readers and targets men and women in their 20s to 40s.

Nikkan Sports Shimbun is a major sports newspaper distributed nationwide in Japan, as well as a major organizer of marathon events in Japan. The MVA invited two female runners who placed in one of the newspaper's recent marathon to join the Saipan Marathon. The paper targets males in their 20s to 60s and circulates to nearly 900,000 readers with its Tokyo edition, which will feature the race in an issue later this month.

Elle Online is the biggest portal site focusing on fashion and women's lifestyle, and the editor of their running section RUNLOG participated in the marathon. RUNLOG receives 500,000 page views per month, and the editor's race report will featured in April.

While on Saipan, the media crew also conducted photo shoots at various tourist attractions showcasing visitor amenities. In addition to transportation and shooting permit assistance from the MVA, in-kind donations for the media coverage were made by Hyatt Regency Saipan, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Saipan Botanical Garden, Tasi Tours & Transportation, and Coffee Care. ***(MVA)***

BoG offers $5,000 college scholarships

HAGATNA, Guam—For the seventh consecutive year, the Bank of Guam is offering local high school seniors an opportunity to apply for up to $5,000 in grants through its participation with the 2009 Education Exchange College Grant Program.

Students must mail their completed applications and supporting documents directly to the ACCEL/Exchange Network in New Jersey. The application package must be postmarked not later than March 15, 2010. No copied applications will be accepted.

Totaling $50,000 in grants nationally for 2010, the Education Exchange Program is open to all college-bound, high school seniors graduating this year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and able to provide written acceptance to an accredited four-year college by May 15, 2010. Other information includes an official copy of the high school transcript and two (2) letters of recommendation.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches and the Customer Service Department in Hagatna Branch Lobby. They have also been distributed to Guam's high schools. Only originals will be accepted.

A total of four $5,000 grants and 30 $1,000 grants will be awarded by July 15, 2010.

Under the ACCEL/Exchange Education Exchange Program, a total of seven Guam students have been selected in the national process for a total of $11,000. In 2008, 2 Academy of Our Lady of Guam students each were awarded $1,000, while in 2006, three Guam students were awarded a record $7,000. Guam's winners in 2004 and 2005 each won $1,000. ***(BoG)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-10-018

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting seal bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply of (2) Two CATERPILLAR XQ2000 - 2000 KW Standby / 1825kW Prime generating sets for CUC Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC take down existing generators for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. The existing generator sets on Rota are seriously overdue for overhauls and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

Due to this critical situation in Rota and the need for fast delivery and installation of two new generator sets the 1825kW Prime XQ2000 CATERPILLAR was selected. If availability of Brand New Modules exceeds ninety (90) days, only Used Modules with low hours will be considered.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not planned, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until March 29, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-018 Two XQ2000 CATERPILLAR Generating Modules"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Tuesday, April 06, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

With respect to bidders' employment of labor as an element of a bid, the Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page —http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All Inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Thursday April 02, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-10-023

Request for Statement of Qualification for Project Manag ment Services

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting statement of qualification from individuals or firms for project management services. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) has urgent need for various Professional - Project Management Services as related to the utility services. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is the CNMI Government's combined power, water and wastewater utility. This is a request for proposals to meet the deliverables of a recent federal consent order regarding the disposal, handling and prevention activities regarding used oil, Stipulated Order #2. The CUC procurement regulations for Architect/Engineer (AIE) Procurement Regulations Title 50 Chapter 50 of the CNMI Administrative Code Paragraph 50-50-305 to publicly announce all requirements for arch architect-engineer services and negotiate contracts on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications at a fair and reasonable price. After public announcement of requirement for A/E services, statements shall be reviewed by CUC, and after discussion, selection shall be made in order of preference of A/E firms to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. The CUC shall attempt to negotiate a contract with the highest qualified architect-engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to CUC. In the event that a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated, negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations shall be undertaken with the next highest qualified firm.

The intent is for CUC to procure the services of the most qualified Project Management firm interested in performing a variety of Project Management services in accordance with standard practice including but not limited to construction and repair work, bulk fuel oil transfer, storage and handling in accordance with the applicable codes and regulations including American Petroleum Institute (API), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Statements of Qualifications will be accepted, reviewed, rated, and ranked by a team of CUC individuals, followed by interviews, as necessary, culminating in the CUC identification of the most qualified firm(s) per CUC procurement regulations.

Details of the Solicitation Notice will be emailed to interested parties upon request, until March 15, 2010 by CUC, Procurement & Supply Division at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, 3' Floor, Room No. 4, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-10-02 3, REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Monday, March 22, 2010** at 10:OO AM, local time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject anyor all proposals and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shallbecome the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, March 18, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net, Mr. Robert Lorenz, Water-Wastewater Engineer at email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net, Venu, PG Engineer at venu@cucgov.net.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Elections show how far Iraq has come

When the history of the U.S. war in Iraq is written, Sunday's parliamentary election may well provide the final chapter. The national vote in which minority Sunni Arabs cast ballots along with Shiites and ethnic Kurds could be a marker for the end of the seven-year war, although not for the end of the nation's sectarian conflict.

Thirty-eight Iraqis died in Baghdad election violence, a relatively light toll compared with the bloodletting of recent years; tens of thousands of Iraqis have died since the war began in March 2003. Once the election day rockets and bombs cleared like some sort of morning weather front, Iraqis turned out in large numbers to cast their ballots—about two-thirds of the country's eligible voters in all. A successful election neither justifies the original U.S. invasion, which was conducted on false pretenses, nor does it guarantee Iraqis a democratic government, but it is positive news for President Obama, who plans to pull U.S. combat troops out of Iraq in August and to withdraw the rest of U.S. forces by the end of 2011.

Although sectarian struggles were key factors in the campaign, and undoubtedly many voters cast ballots along ethnic and religious lines, Iraqis should take heart in the fact that their own security forces capably provided protection for the overwhelming majority of the 10 million voters who once again opted to seek political power through peaceful means. They should celebrate the fact that Sunni Arab parties chose to participate rather than boycott the election as they did in 2005.

No party is expected to win a majority of the 352 seats in parliament, so Prime Minister Nouri Maliki will continue as head of a caretaker government as the party that wins the most seats tries to form a new coalition government. If the last parliamentary election is any indication, negotiations could take months, leaving a dangerous power vacuum that insurgents surely will try to exploit to refuel sectarian tensions. It is in the interest of all Iraqis, therefore, for the parties to make the necessary compromises and alliances to put a new administration in place as soon as possible.

Iraqis want and deserve control over their own future. We hope that a new government will strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law while providing new opportunities to resolve some of the country's long-standing problems. Iraq has yet to decide, for instance, who will control the Kirkuk region, how to apportion the country's precious oil revenues and how much authority will rest with the central government over its divided regions. The United States should offer counsel when asked and, otherwise, stand back and wish them wisdom in governing.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times

No need to ban the bomb

By FRANCIS J. GAVIN
Los Angeles Times

Francis J. Gavin is professor of international affairs and director of the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Iran's announcement last month that it will begin enriching uranium for use in a medical reactor sparked a rare bipartisan consensus in Washington. Politicians on both sides of the aisle treated the news as the latest evidence we are moving closer to a nuclear crisis.

There is cause for concern, with Iran unwilling to bend to global pressure, terrorists eager to acquire an atomic device, an erratic North Korea threatening stability in East Asia and an international nuclear nonproliferation regime that appears to be getting weaker by the minute.

So how worried should we be? Not very. These threats, though serious, are overstated. Three common claims in particular are open to scrutiny.

The first is that we are at a nuclear tipping point. Many experts contend the world is on the verge of a proliferation epidemic. By their reasoning, a nuclear Iran might drive Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey into the nuclear club. And North Korea's nuclear program could leave Japan, South Korea and Taiwan feeling they have little choice but to develop a nuclear capability, perhaps spurring Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia to follow suit.

This threat of "nuclear dominoes" has been exaggerated since the time of President Kennedy, who in 1963 predicted that there could be 25 nuclear weapons states by the 1970s. In fact, the number of nuclear weapons programs in the world has decreased dramatically in the last three decades. South Africa, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus gave up their weapons, while states such as Australia, Brazil and Sweden abandoned efforts to build the bomb.

Even the weapons programs we worry about most—Pakistan, Iran and North Korea—began decades ago, and as far as we know, no new country has started a nuclear weapons program since the end of the Cold War 20 years ago. The most pessimistic predictions of a sudden epidemic of new nuclear states are highly unlikely.

The second overstatement is that a catastrophic terrorist nuclear attack against the United States is inevitable. Eight and a half years after the horrific 9/11 terrorist attacks, we have not had the atomic attack on our soil that many experts predicted. That may be a matter of luck. But it also may be that it is far more difficult than conventional wisdom suggests for a nonstate actor, without secure territory or the institutions of a modern state, to acquire, assemble, transport and detonate a nuclear weapon in an American city.

Nuclear terrorism is not impossible, but rhetoric about the inevitability and catastrophic nature of such an attack does more harm than good.

The third exaggeration is that the threat of rogue nuclear nations today is unprecedented in history. To some, a nuclear Iran or North Korea is so unacceptable as to justify preemptive strikes against their nuclear capabilities. We forget that the so-called rogue threat is not new: The peril presented by a nuclear-armed Mao in the 1960s was far more dangerous than anything Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Iran could offer today.

After much debate, the United States ruled out a preemptive attack and learned to live with both a nuclear Russia and China during the Cold War. We should do the same today. Remember, neither of our Cold War enemies used their nuclear weapons or became reckless and undeterrable. Using a nuclear weapon—or supplying one to a terrorist group—would invite massive retaliation on the country that struck first, and that is a powerful deterrent.

That Iran—surrounded by rivals with nuclear ambitions and singled out as dangerous by the largest military power in the world—has an interest in nuclear weapons is not surprising or irrational. Even analysts who consider Iranian behavior a challenge to U.S. interests do not think it poses a threat as grave as Mao's China or Stalin's Soviet Union did. Nuclear weapons could make Iran more aggressive. Or, as with China, they could provide international legitimacy and security, making Iran less irresponsible.

We often portray the post-9/11 world as far more volatile and unsafe than the supposedly stable decades of the Cold War. In fact, nuclear proliferation pressures were greater, our adversaries more ruthless and powerful, and the risks of a nuclear catastrophe higher 40 years ago. Yet despite some close calls, the United States and the world avoided a nuclear calamity during this far more dangerous period.

There are lessons to be learned from the past. First, successful U.S. policies then focused less on who had nuclear weapons than on constructing policies to make sure they were never used, a subtle but important difference. When the United States made potential proliferators and their neighbors feel more secure (or less threatened), they were more likely to stay nonnuclear and, if they went nuclear, to behave more responsibly. Instead of preemption and coercion, a range of options including alliances, security guarantees, reassurance and deterrence drove strategy.

A smarter mix of these policies—instead of alarmist rhetoric, military threats and isolating sanctions—could stabilize nuclear politics in places such as the Middle East and East Asia, and build on our 65-year nuclear history of avoiding catastrophe.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Your Perfect Day

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Are you really satisfied with your life right now? I mean, do you feel like you are living the life that you hoped to be living when you were younger, and are you fulfilled? If you are, that's fantastic. However, if you feel there's something missing, or you know there's more you want from life, then consider constructing your perfect day.

Imagine experiencing your one perfect day and then being able to repeat it as often as possible? What I'm talking about is a new life for yourself that allows you to do what you want, go where you want, be with whomever you desire, and live life to its fullest.

In order to start this adventure you need to understand who you really are inside. You are made up of your experiences, beliefs, and values that create your true identity. All your communications and expressions come from your identity, and understanding it will allow you to design a new life that best fits you.

Many individuals carry around two identities: the one that they want the public to see, and the one that expresses their true inner self. Those with the greatest gap between those two identities find themselves distanced from their ideal life. The individuals who are currently living their perfect life have been able to close the gap between their two identities so that their personal and public life are in harmony. They are in alignment with their true self and have no guile.

Designing your perfect life is not as difficult as it may seem. You simply have to start living your ideal life one day at a time. To begin your journey toward a new life, describe your perfect, average ideal day as if there were no limitations.

This is not a one-shot day that would have you describe things you might not ever do again; instead, it would be a day that you would do over and over again without getting tired of it.

Here are some questions to help you get started. The more specific you can describe your perfect day, the easier it will be for your conscious and subconscious mind to work toward the experiences you desire.

When and how would you wake up in the morning? What would you be thinking about as you prepared for the day? What would you wear? What would you eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner? Who would you eat it with and what would be your conversation? Would you have the same friends and acquaintances or would you want to associate with some other people? What would you do? Where would you go?

How much would you weigh? What would be your energy level? What would you do for personal fulfillment and what would you strive towards to give you the most satisfaction in life? What is your relationship with the significant people in your life and your family? What would you do for family time?

Where would you be living and what would you be doing? What would be your ideal business or employment? What kind of people would you want to ideally associate with at work? If you own a business, who would be your ideal employees and what would be your relationship with them? What would your ideal customers be like and what would they want to buy from you?

What would you do in the evening? What kind of time would you spend with your family and what would you want to do right before you go to bed? How would you end your perfect day? What would be your last thoughts as you drift off to sleep?

As you evaluate your typical day against your ideal, you may need to change some of your habit patterns and character traits. You may need to change the people you hang out with, or you may find that others resist your attempts to change and live in your perfect day. By making changes in your life, it will make it uncomfortable for others to be around you because they will have to adapt.

You may be tempted to slip back into your usual patterns, but don't give up. As you approach your perfect day, you will soon create your ideal life and find that your public and true identity is one and your life is more authentic.

As you remain consistent in your efforts, you will find that your perfect day is not as elusive as you thought, and that you will be living a life that gives you joy and peace.

Bending the cost curve, in the wrong direction

By JASON D. FODEMAN and ROBERT A. BOOK
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

President Obama repeatedly promises that his version of health-care reform will "bend the cost curve," saving money for patients and taxpayers. The problem is, most provisions in the health-care bills would bend that curve the wrong way. The cost of individual health-care services, premiums and total health care spending would grow faster, not slower.

No one disputes that health-care spending is rising rapidly. In 2008, total health-care spending in the United States was $2.34 trillion, or 16.2 percent of GDP, up 4.4 percent from the previous year. The Congressional Budget Office forecasts that if present trends continue, health-care spending would account for 25 percent of GDP by 2025 and continue climbing rapidly.

Commonly proposed explanations include unhealthy lifestyles, expensive new health-care technologies, wasteful spending in part due to worries about malpractice lawsuits, and a third-party payment system that insulate decision-makers from costs.

All of these factors contribute to the problem. Today's health-care system is fraught with perverse incentives that generate artificially increased spending. But nothing in the House- and Senate-passed health bills, or in the president's plan, would reduce these incentives. And some provisions would make them worse.

In most fields, such as computers and cell phones, new technology usually increases quality and reduces prices. Health care prices, though, often go the opposite way. Not always; drug prices drop when generics replace brand-name drugs, and expensive drugs sometimes replace even-more-expensive surgical interventions. But often, new health technologies increase prices. Why? Health-care prices are determined by a bureaucratic process that prevents competition from driving prices down.

Once Medicare or an insurer approves a new medical device (or device-based procedure like MRI), the manufacturer has little incentive ever to reduce prices—even when its manufacturing costs go down. And unlike goods sold in "normal" markets, the next model will come at a higher, rather than a lower price, since the improvements can be used to "justify" a higher price.

Some blame the increased spending on frivolous malpractice lawsuits and excessive malpractice insurance premiums. The direct cost of malpractice amounts to less than 2 percent of total health-care spending, according to the CBO. (It is higher for certain specialties and certain states.) The much larger problem is the tendency of physicians to prescribe additional tests and treatments out of the belief that they will forestall lawsuits. A study by PricewaterhouseCoopers estimated that this "defensive medicine" accounts for 10 percent of total health-care spending.

These factors are exacerbated by a payment system that makes the physician and patient insulated from—even unaware of—the costs of various treatment options. Often, the patient pays the same regardless of which treatment is chosen, with any difference passed along to the insurance company, Medicare or Medicaid. One might think that these "third-party" payers have an incentive to ensure that resources are used efficiently, but ultimately they don't pay the price either: Insurers pass on increased spending to patients (and their co-workers) through increased premiums. Government programs, meanwhile, pass spending increases along to taxpayers.

When Medicare was created in 1965, patients paid 52 percent of health-care expenditures out of pocket, on average. This fell to only 15 percent by 2005. As third-party payer spending has risen as a percentage, so has total spending on health care; since 1965, inflation-adjusted per capita expenditures have increased approximately sixfold. This is no coincidence. Both the Senate and House bills, and the president's plan, contain provisions that would magnify this problem. They would force private insurance premiums to increase by putting strict limits on all patient "out-of-pocket" payments except premiums. They would even require insurance companies to give rebates if they don't spend "enough" on health care, and prohibit premiums based on lifestyles or health status.

The plans would transfer millions into Medicaid, which encourages the use of expensive emergency rooms by underpaying primary care physicians and prohibiting even nominal payments by patients. In addition, the plans impose new taxes on medical devices, prescription drugs, and health insurance itself. These taxes would be passed on to patients through higher prices and higher premiums. The president's plan includes a 40 percent excise tax on high-premium plans, which would bend the premium cost curve upward unless benefit packages for those plans are cut. Indeed, the extra taxes and other regulations might make those cuts impossible.

The House- and Senate-passed bills, and the president's plan, would make the health care system even more inefficient and costly. They would saddle an already burdened system with more mandates, higher taxes and less flexibility. They would indeed bend the curve—but upward, not downward.

Jason D. Fodeman is a former health policy fellow in the Center for Health Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. Robert A. Book is a senior research fellow in Heritage's Center for Data Analysis. Readers may write to the authors in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm.

Letter to the Editor

Read the background documents

Article XII indeed can stir up emotions as we have seen lately in both newspapers. We the members of the Citizen for Change to Article XII are encouraging everyone to *please* read the background as to how and why Article XII came about. It is important that at least two documents be read. These are "Analysis of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" dated Dec. 6, 1976 and the "Section by Section Analysis of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" dated Feb. 15, 1975.

Actually, it is the Feb. 15, 1975 "Section by Section Analysis of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" that formed our constitution. Section 805 of this document is of particular interest as it relates to Article XII of the constitution.

Section 805 sets that for 25 years, there will restriction on fee simple ownership of land to Northern Marianas Descent. Section 805 provides also that, "after the expiration of this 25-period, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands may regulate the alienation of property as described." It means that after the 25-year period, we may decide on whether to continue as is with Article XII or abolish it or modify it.

We urge everyone to read the two documents listed above. The "Analysis of the Constitution" provides a very clear picture of what went on in the formation of Article XII. Contrary to what is being said, Article XII is not a sacred document or a document meant to be permanent.

It should be clear that abolishing Article XII would not force anyone to sell off his or her land. What it will do is give you the complete and absolute ownership of you land. As is now with Article XII, we do not have absolute ownership of our land; the government (public) has a say on who one can sell his or her land to. This particular restriction is hurting many of us and most certainly those families (usually the young husband and wife) wanting to build their house. We do not have loan programs for building houses such as those available in Guam and the rest of the States primarily because of the limitations imposed by Article XII.

There is an argument that Article XII is needed to preserve our culture. In another words, land is essential to the preservation of culture. We do not believe that this is true. Culture is what we practice. The States is an excellent example of people retaining their cultures. Look at Chinatown in San Francisco, the Polish in the Chicago area, and the Mexicans in Texas, California to name a few. Also, our own culture is thriving in the States.

It is the intent of the Citizen for Change to Article XII to hold meetings at the village level, with the Legislature and the schools, including a public forum where we all can hear and discuss our views. We will be making arrangements to have the section-by-section analysis of the Covenant and the Constitution available so that we all can read and be more informed about Article XII.

Efrain F. Camacho
Chairman, Citizen for Change to Article XII

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

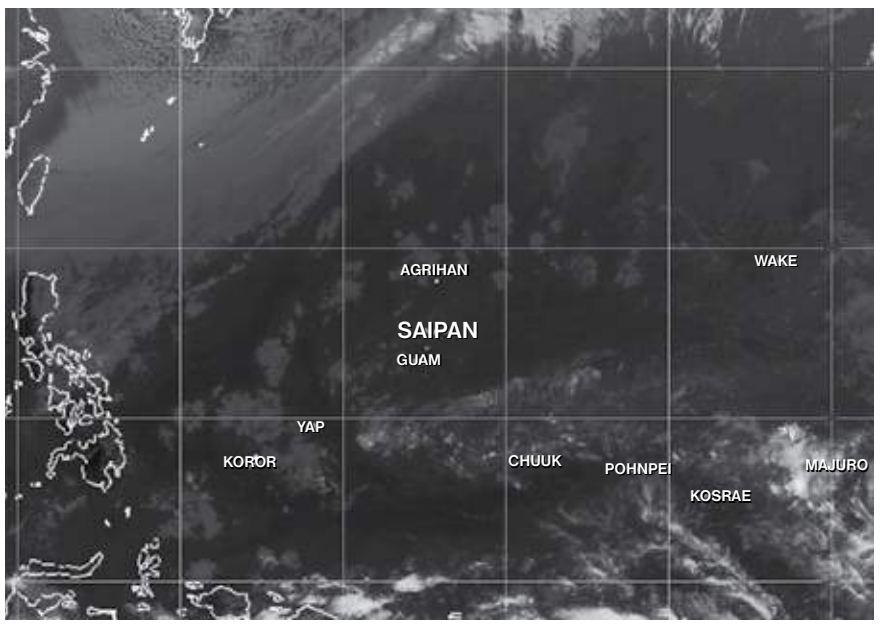
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲70	▼56
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼34
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼61
Honolulu	Showers	▲77	▼70
London	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲70	▼48
Manila	Showers	▲84	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼52
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼74
New York	Showers	▲55	▼47
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲49	▼38
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲40	▼33
Pusan	Sunny	▲50	▼35
Rome	Rain	▲49	▼32
Salem	Showers	▲52	▼46
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼44
Seoul	Sunny	▲45	▼34
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲52	▼38
Washington, DC	Rain	▲61	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front approaching Iwo To island extends southwest from 25N139E to beyond 19N130E. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of the front. Trade-wind convergence is generating a few scattered showers between Yap and Palau within 100 miles of a line from 11N133E to 7N138E and east of Yap within 75 miles of a line from 9N142E to 9N146E and just west of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 8N167E to 6N170E. A disturbance just east of Tarawa is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 6N from 174E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
4:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:11 AM	2:46 PM
Friday	3:52 AM	3:35 PM
Saturday	4:30 AM	4:23 PM
Sunday	5:06 AM	5:09 PM
Monday	5:40 AM	5:56 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

WSR's 4th graders extend a helping hand to Haiti

On Feb. 26, 2010, fourth-grade students from William S. Reyes Elementary School got together to help support a cause—the victims of Haiti.

The idea began with Ramon Agulto, a fourth-grade student at WSR Elementary School who, after watching the news about Haiti, was saddened and touched by the images he saw on television and wanted to help.

According to his teacher, Ms. Torres, "Ramon is a caring student who is able to empathize with others."

Initially, Ramon wanted to put collection jars in the classrooms, but then decided to take advantage of the PTSA-sponsored "Family Fun Night" to collect donations, which was fortunately scheduled the same week of their planning. The class was excited and determined to carry out their plan for Haiti.

When asked why they wanted to do the drive, Ryan Relucio, a student volunteer replied, "We are Peacebuilders and Peacebuilders care!"

Upon hearing that the school's STUCO was also planning a fundraiser for Haiti, they decided to work together as a team.

STUCO organized two games while the students of I-7 put together a collection jar next to a banner they created, "Helping Hands *for* Haiti." Student volunteers encouraged people who passed by the STUCO booth to put any amount of money into the collection jar. People who donated wrote their names on cards which were then posted in front of the STUCO booth to show not only their gratitude to donors but to let others know of their generosity.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fourth-grade students from William S. Reyes Elementary School pose in front of the wall of cards showing the names of those who donated to the "Helping Hands for Haiti" fundraiser.

Brandy Onopwy proudly shared his part in the event: "I got to write people's name and got to tape it on the booth with the other names. I feel so happy when I help my classmates."

The students were surprised by the many caring individuals who stopped by the booth to help. "Teachers, families, students, and friends showed they care," said John Costales another student volunteer. They were especially amazed when a donor would drop in a $5 bill or a $10 bill.

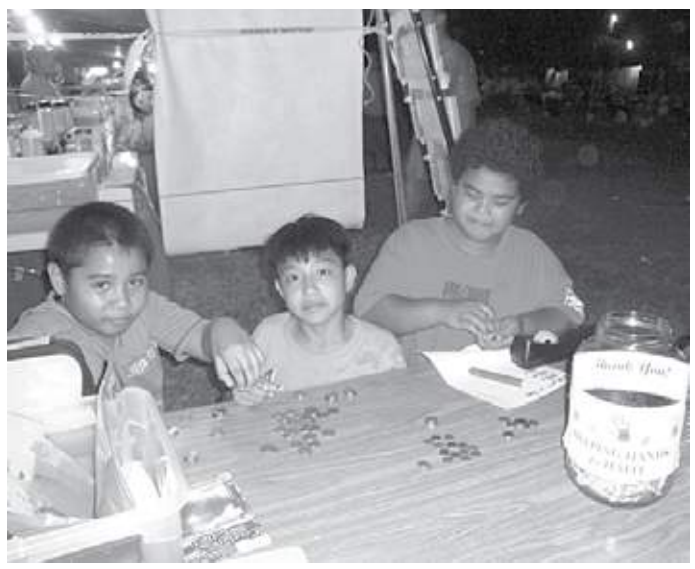
Florielynn Pangelinan, the very first student to donate, said, "I really want to help Haiti. I feel good that they can use this money to buy food and medicine for their sick children."

Nathan Celis and Joseph Liberato who stayed until 9:30pm to help count the money, freaked out when they surpassed their expected goal of $100.

From the collection drive alone, the students raised $125 and 96 cents. A total of $250 will be handed over to American Red Cross' Disaster Relief Fund to help people affected by the earthquake in Haiti. The students of I-7 were very proud of their part in the fundraiser and had this to say: "We are very thankful for everyone's support. We've made a difference!"

The banner and name cards are currently on display in front of the school's office. When asked what they've learned from their initiated activity, Jeanelyn Gomez replied: "I learned that you don't have to help so much. All that matters is that you helped."

Kenny Diaz added, "Making a small difference can make a huge difference. Helping people is a Peacebuilder thing to do." ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WSR students count the money they collected for Haiti.

Two Rota beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on Rota's Coral Garden and Kokomo beaches after and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on Rota Island this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Farrah Ann Borja. May you have many more sexy years to come! Always and forever, your family, especially your favorite sis!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Tracy Valenzuela, who is celebrating her birthday today! Enjoy your day and don't work too hard…be the boss today! Always and forever, your family, especially your favorite sis!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday greetings going out to Jamal, who celebrated his 4th birthday yesterday, March 10, 2010. Wishing you all the best and many more years to come. Greetings come from your sister Marvlyn.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2371 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-GOV-082

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) REPORT
TINIAN TRANSFER STATION

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide the Environmental Assessment (EA) Report for the Tinian Tranfer Station to be located on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the EA services required will be available on Friday, March 12, 2010, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US $50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill at 1:30 PM,Wednesday, March 31, 2010 (Saipan local time). Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. N. Stanley Good, CIP Project Manager, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., Saipan local time April 9, 2010.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed thirty (30) pages in length. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Relevant qualification and experience of the firm, personnel and staff - 50%
   Include sufficient information to identify previous experience and the effectiveness of proposer on similar projects. List, at minimum, all similar projects conducted in the previous five (5) years. As there are a number of disciplines required in provision of this service, a specific listing of proposed sub-contractors, and their roles, is required as a part of any submittal. The relevant qualifications of these sub-contractors shall be considered in the rating
2. Ability to commit resources to the project - 25%
   As the CNMI feels this project is time dependant, a specific description of how the proposer would meet the schedule and what resources would be committed to the project is required. Proposal shall identify assigned staff, their roles and time committed to the project.
3. Suggested Approach - 25%
   The proposer shall provide a description of the proposed approach that will be used to complete the environmental assessment. Information provided should establish the proposers familirity with requirements for completion of an EA and show the method and schedule for completion of these requirements.
4. Proposed Costs to perform the EA report work - 0%

Performance time for completion of the EA design is three hundred eight (308) calendar days (44 weeks) upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed to submission of the Final Report as described in the Scope of Work document. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00) for each and every working day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, will be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"RFP10- GOV-082, Environmental Assessment Report for the Tinian Transfer Station".** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 14, 2010. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan local time, April 14, 2010, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 14, 2010, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 23, 2010 (Saipan local time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) . Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

Business

Feds to probe cause of runaway Prius in California

EL CAJON, Calif. (AP)—A Toyota Prius that sped out of control on a California freeway was towed to a dealership Tuesday while federal and company inspectors converged on the car to determine whether a stuck gas pedal was to blame.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration sent two investigators to examine the car after Monday's incident, said Olivia Alair, a spokeswoman for the Department of Transportation, which oversees NHTSA. Toyota Motor Corp. spokesman Brian Lyons said the automaker is sending three of its own technicians to investigate.

James Sikes, 61, of Jacumba, told authorities that the accelerator malfunctioned Monday as he drove his Prius on Interstate 8 in San Diego County. The car reached 94 mph during the 20 minutes before a California Highway Patrol officer helped get the Prius driver to slow down and turn off the engine.

The CHP held the car overnight but it was towed to the dealership Tuesday, CHP Officer Brian Pennings said.

"There's no collision, so our investigation's done," Pennings said. "There's no crime. ... We're just glad it ended safely."

The incident comes while Toyota is fighting fears over the safety of its vehicles, which had been revered for their safety and reliability.

It was about 12 miles from where Sikes' Prius started speeding where a deadly crash last year sparked scrutiny into the Japanese company's vehicles.

CHP Officer Mark Saylor, his wife, her brother and the couple's daughter died after their Lexus' accelerator became trapped by a wrong-size floor mat on a freeway in La Mesa. The loaner car hit a sport utility vehicle and burst into flames.

Since then, Toyota has recalled some 8.5 million vehicles worldwide—more than 6 million in the United States—because of acceleration problems in multiple models and braking issues in the Prius. Regulators have linked 52 deaths to crashes allegedly caused by accelerator problems.

On Monday, Toyota assembled a group of experts at its North American headquarters in Torrance, Calif., to refute studies by an Illinois professor who revved Toyota engines simply by short-circuiting the wiring. Toyota's experts say the experiments were done under conditions that would never happen on the road.

The company has blamed the issue on mechanical problems and floor mats that can wedge the gas pedal.

"It wasn't the floor mat. The floor mat we have has hooks on it," Sikes' wife, Patty, said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

What to do if your car suddenly accelerates

What should you do if your car suddenly accelerates? Here are three ways to stop the vehicle, according to Toyota:

■ Step on the brake pedal with both feet using firm and steady pressure. Do not pump the brakes.

■ Shift the transmission gear selector into neutral. Use the brakes to make a controlled stop by the side of the road.

■ If you're unable to put the vehicle in neutral, turn off the engine. This will cut off power assist to the steering wheel and brakes, but as long as the key is in the ignition, you will still be able to steer and brake. If you have an engine start/stop button, press it firmly for three seconds to turn the engine off. Do not tap it. If you have a conventional key ignition, turn the ignition key to the ACC position. Do not remove the key from the ignition. ***(AP)***

AP

Driver James Sikes talks about his experiences in his Toyota Prius during a news conference held at Toyota of El Cajon Tuesday, March 9, 2010, in El Cajon, Calif.

Curbing derivatives might hurt, not help, Greece

NEW YORK (AP)—Derivatives have become a dirty word.

The complex financial products helped blow up the U.S. housing market. They all but sank AIG. Now European officials want to crack down on a derivative called a credit default swap. It's an insurance-like product that they say has worsened Europe's debt crisis and could bankrupt Greece.

Hold on, many experts say: Credit default swaps—contracts that insure debt—have actually prevented Greece's debacle from worsening. Without them, they say, investors would be less willing to buy Greece's debt. It would likely need a bailout to run its government and service its huge debt. That could threaten Europe's economic rebound.

"If we get to a point where we've had enough with credit default swaps, then I think Greece will have serious problems," said Darrell Duffie, a finance professor at Stanford University.

Sellers of credit default swaps agree to pay the buyers if the debt goes bad. With swaps, investors who lend to countries by buying their bonds can reduce their risk. Without them, Duffie and others say, Greece's borrowing costs would escalate because lenders would demand higher premiums.

That's not how Greece sees it.

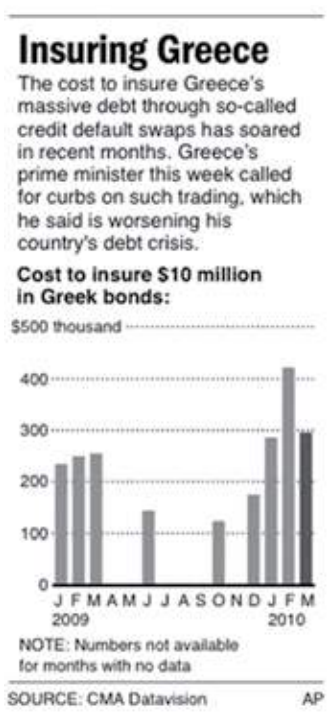
It argues that traders of the swaps who bet against Greece's debt are raising its borrowing costs, making default more likely. It claims trading of swaps—which is unregulated—is racking up big profits for Wall Street banks and hedge funds at Greece's expense.

"Speculators are making billions every day betting on Greece's default," Prime Minister George Papandreou said this week in Washington, where his government is pressing the U.S. to restrict such trading.

Greece favors banning "naked" credit default swaps on a country's debt. In naked trades, the buyers of the swaps don't actually hold the underlying debt. Yet they can still profit or lose money on the bet.

Papandreou likened this practice to buying insurance on a neighbor's house and then burning it down to collect. Without naming names, he said some U.S. banks that were bailed out during the financial crisis are using naked swaps to make "a fortune out of Greece's misfortune."

Such speculation, he warned, could trigger a "domino effect" of higher borrowing costs for indebted countries around the world.


Insuring Greece
The cost to insure Greece's massive debt through so-called credit default swaps has soared in recent months. Greece's prime minister this week called for curbs on such trading, which he said is worsening his country's debt crisis.
Cost to insure $10 million in Greek bonds:
$500 thousand
400
300
200
100
0
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M
2009
2010
NOTE: Numbers not available for months with no data
SOURCE: CMA Datavision
AP

The prime minister said President Barack Obama, after a White House meeting Tuesday, offered a "very positive" response to European ideas for restricting currency trading. He said the issue would be discussed at the next meeting of the Group of 20 summit of leading and emerging economies in June.

Soaring China home prices thwart ordinary buyers

SHANGHAI (AP)—The luxury apartment buildings Yang Xuhua passes on her way to work are a daily reminder of her own frustrated efforts to buy a home. Prices for even modest apartments in Shanghai have soared, putting home purchases out of reach for white collar workers and professionals.

Yang and many other young Chinese are finding their aspirations thwarted by an overheated property market that is enriching already wealthy speculators, local officials and other Communist Party allies.

It's a hard reality for a generation that views home ownership as a given after reforms more than a decade ago created a housing market open to the masses. It's also a challenge for leaders whose reliance on rising property values and land sales to property developers risks letting the market spiral out of control.

"I sigh at every fancy apartment building I see on the way to work everyday, but that won't change anything," says Yang, whose train ride to work at a trading company takes her past legions of high-rise apartment blocks. "My salary increases but it can't catch up with rising housing prices."

The issue is getting top billing at China's annual legislative session, the party's main forum for explaining its policies and responding to public complaints.

"We will resolutely curb the precipitous rise of housing prices in some cities and satisfy people's basic need for housing," Premier Wen Jiabao pledged in his annual address to lawmakers, China's equivalent of the State of the Union speech.

The government has raised taxes and required downpayments—now a minimum 30 percent for even first-time home buyers—and warned big state companies and banks against speculative, risky investments. But no major immediate changes are expected.

"Chinese top leaders have become more and more sensitive to strong nationwide voices on issues, but the sensitivity is only at the PR level," says Ding Xueliang, a China expert at Hong Kong's University of Science and Technology.

Rising property prices have underpinned economic growth rates, benefiting local governments that tend to be heavily invested in property development and other related businesses. Land sales often help finance construction projects that are also a lucrative source of income for many officials.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China February exports jump 45.7 percent

BEIJING (AP)—China's exports rose in February in a new sign of growing global demand that could help persuade officials to let the Chinese currency rise. Exports were up 45.7 percent over a year earlier, the Chinese customs agency reported Wednesday, beating analyst forecasts of 35 to 40 percent growth. Imports surged 44.7 percent, the agency said, reflecting growing demand in China as it emerges from the global crisis. "China's trade is extending its recovery," said Zhu Jianfang, an economist for Citic Securities in Beijing. "Exporters are getting more orders these days."

Bank of America ends overdraft fees on debit cards

NEW YORK (AP)—Bank of America customers will soon be unable to spend more than they have in the accounts linked to their debit cards. It's a step that may become a common move ahead of new regulations limiting overdraft fees. Rules set by the Federal Reserve that will ban banks from charging such fees, without first getting permission from the customer, are set to take effect July 1. But Bank of America is going a step further than the regulations require. It will simply no longer allow debit card purchases to go through if there isn't enough money in the account. For ATM transactions, customers who try to withdraw more than their balance will have to agree to pay a $35 overdraft fee before they can get the money.

Oil hovers above $81 amid mixed US inventory data

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $81 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after a report showed mixed evidence about U.S. crude demand. Benchmark crude for April delivery was up 5 cents to $81.54 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 38 cents to settle at $81.49 on Tuesday. Oil has jumped about 17 percent since early last month on increased investor confidence in this year's global economic growth. But crude demand from the U.S., the world's largest consumer of oil, has remained sluggish.

Nation

Obama using 'bounty hunters' to root out fraud

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Tuesday he'll bring in high-tech bounty hunters to help root out health care fraud, grabbing a populist idea with bipartisan backing in his final push to overhaul the system.

The White House announcement came as Obama prepared to travel to Missouri on Wednesday, taking his closing argument to the nation's heartland. The trip will be his second public appearance this week to rally support and fire up nervous Democrats.

The White House released details of the anti-fraud plan hours after a fresh challenge to the administration from major business groups that unveiled a multimillion-dollar ad campaign arguing that under Obama's plan "health care costs will go even higher, making a bad economy worse."

The ad buy, costing between $4 million and $10 million, will start Wednesday on national cable TV outlets. Later in the week, the campaign shifts to 17 states home to moderate and conservative Democrats. Their votes are critical to Obama's endgame for passing legislation to expand coverage to millions who now lack it and revamp the health insurance system.

On Capitol Hill, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and other senior administration officials met with House and Senate Democratic leaders, who have struggled to secure the votes for the stalled health care legislation.

The two-step approach now being pursued calls for the House to approve a Senate-passed bill from last year, despite House Democrats' opposition to several of its provisions. Both chambers then would follow by approving a companion measure to make changes in that first bill.

"We're going to get it done as soon as possible," Emanuel told reporters after the meeting.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs has said he expects the House to act by March 18, the day Obama leaves for an overseas trip. That timetable would be tough to meet, and congressional leaders told Emanuel on Tuesday that they don't need deadlines handed down from the White House, according to Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who chairs the Energy and Commerce Committee and attended Tuesday's meeting.

"He was certainly informed that we don't feel that we want any deadline assigned to us," Waxman said. "We want to pass the bill. We want to make sure it's the way it should be. And as soon as possible."

ROCK SLIDE AP

Colorado Department of Transportation crew members watch the mountain for more falling rocks as others drill holes to set explosives in boulders on Interstate 70 near Glenwood Springs, Colo. after an overnight fall deposited large rocks and hit a bridge, closing a 17-mile stretch of the road.

Massa denies he sexually groped male staffer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former New York Congressman Eric Massa, who resigned from Congress amid sexual harassment allegations, acknowledged Tuesday groping a staffer but denied it was sexual.

Massa

"It doesn't make any difference what my intentions were, it's how it's perceived by the individual who receives that action," Massa said on conservative commentator Glenn Beck's Fox News Channel show. "I'm telling you I was wrong. I was wrong. My behavior was wrong. I should have never allowed myself to be as familiar with my staff as I was."

The Washington Post, citing anonymous sources, reported Tuesday that the House ethics panel is investigating allegations Massa groped multiple male staffers in his office. Massa has previously claimed his misconduct was limited to using inappropriate language with staffers.

Asked directly on Beck's program whether he sexually groped anyone, Massa replied: "No, no, no."

Massa, however, recalled tickling a staffer at a birthday party.

"Now they're saying I groped a male staffer," Massa said. "Yeah, I did. Not only did I grope him, I tickled him until he couldn't breathe and four guys jumped on top of me. It was my 50th birthday and it was kill the old guy."

Massa said his actions may have been misinterpreted.

Probation report cites suspect's predatory traits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A decade-old probation report on a sex offender accused of murdering California teenager Chelsea King contained a psychiatrist's conclusion that the defendant had "significant predatory traits" toward underage girls and should be kept in prison for as long as possible.

"The defendant does not suffer from a psychotic disorder," a probation officer quoted Dr. Matthew F. Carroll as saying for the report. "He is simply a bad guy who is inordinately interested in young girls."

Carroll further said John Albert Gardner III's "predilection toward younger girls is a problem. He manifests significant predatory traits and is a danger to the community," the officer wrote.

The report released by the San Diego County Superior Court on Tuesday was prepared in 2000 for the sentencing of the then-21-year-old Gardner after he pleaded guilty to committing lewd and lascivious acts on a 13-year-old neighbor girl who had skipped school. The victim was also punched repeatedly before escaping.

The probation officer recommended a so-called middle term of six years, reasoning in part that Gardner had no prior criminal record. A judge ordered the six-year term and Gardner served five before being paroled.

The report says Gardner moved to five different cities through his childhood and recounts the breakup of his parents when he was 5. It also details his work in construction, as a lifeguard, ride operator for four months at a Santa's Village theme park, and at a fast-food restaurant and sporting goods store.

Carroll expressed doubt of Gardner's claim of having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder that required up to 18 medications, noting he hadn't taken medications since age 16 but still had a 3.2 grade-point average in high school, had done well in life and had a relatively high IQ, the report said.

"Therefore, Dr. Carroll's conclusion is that the defendant is 'just a bad, bad kid,'" the officer wrote.

Ohio State janitor's gunfire kills co-worker, self

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio State University janitor who was about to lose his job walked into a maintenance building for his early morning shift Tuesday and shot two supervisors, killing one of them and fatally shooting himself. No students were hurt.

Nathaniel Brown, 51, arrived for work at the nation's largest university dressed in dark clothing, a hooded sweat shirt and a backpack. He then opened fire in an office suite using two handguns, campus Police Chief Paul Denton said.

Brown

Brown spent five years in prison in the 1970s and '80s for receiving stolen property but lied about it on his job application, records show. It wasn't immediately clear whether Ohio State had done the required background check on him.

Ohio State released documents from Brown's personnel file showing that supervisors complained he was tardy, slept on the job and had problems following instructions. The university sent him a letter March 2 informing him that his employment was to end Saturday.

About a half-dozen other employees were in the building when the shooting began, Denton said. He described the shooting as work-related but didn't describe a motive.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pa. woman charged with recruiting jihadists online

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A suburban Philadelphia woman "desperate to do something" to help suffering Muslims has been charged with using the Internet to recruit jihadist fighters and help terrorists overseas, even agreeing to move to Europe to try to kill someone, prosecutors said Tuesday. Authorities said the case shows how terror groups are looking to recruit Americans to carry out their goals. A federal indictment charges that Colleen R. LaRose, who called herself JihadJane online, agreed to kill a Swedish citizen on orders from the unnamed terrorists and traveled to Europe to carry out the killing. It doesn't say whether the Swede was killed, but LaRose was not charged with murder.

Workers urge faster rebuilding at ground zero site

NEW YORK (AP)—Hundreds of construction workers raised a rallying cry of "Build it now!" on Tuesday, gathering with elected officials at the World Trade Center site to urge a quick rebuilding of the complex. "Instead of a shining American symbol of resilience and strength, we have a hole in the ground," U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney told the crowd. "Rebuilding the towers and ground zero is a moral imperative. Putting 10,000 people to work in the middle of a severe recession is an economic imperative." The protest comes days before a Friday deadline for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and developer Larry Silverstein to work out a new schedule for rebuilding parts of the site. Construction is under way on 1 World Trade Center, a memorial and a transit hub, but the building of other planned towers has stalled in a dispute over financing.

Woman delivers surprise baby, picks up other son

HARRODSBURG, Ky. (AP)—A 32-year-old Kentucky woman who said she didn't know that she was pregnant delivered her newborn son on the floor of her laundry room by herself and even cut the umbilical cord. Kelly Bottom told The Advocate-Messenger that she also picked up her other son from school and stopped in at the baby's grandmother's house to show her the infant before going to the hospital Thursday. The newspaper reported the mother and baby were discharged from the hospital Monday after checking in Thursday night. Bottom said the baby, named Brian Keith Sims, weighed 6 lbs., 15 oz. at birth.

Asia

Taliban claim suicide attack on NATO-Afghan base

KHOST, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban claimed responsibility Wednesday for a suicide bombing inside a NATO-Afghan base in eastern Afghanistan that killed two international service members.

A Taliban operative wearing an Afghan police uniform infiltrated the base Tuesday night and detonated his explosive vest next to a group of soldiers who were warming their hands beside a fire, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told The Associated Press by phone.

U.S. troops command most of the eastern area bordering Pakistan, but a NATO statement on the attack did not confirm if the small base was American or the nationalities of those who died. A number of others were wounded in the attack, the military alliance said.

The attack was a reminder of the increasing sophistication and reach of insurgents—who have expanded attacks against targets like the capital and heavily guarded military outposts even as NATO forces have started to take back some of their strongholds in the south.

In December, a suicide bomber infiltrated a CIA base in Khost city, killing seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer. The bomber was able to enter the base because the CIA was cultivating him as a potential source of information about al-Qaida leaders.

Tuesday's suicide attack was along the porous Pakistan border, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east of Khost city, the provincial capital. Khost's rugged mountains are dominated by the Haqqani network, an al-Qaida-linked Afghan Taliban faction blamed for the CIA attack.

NATO said an investigation into the attack was under way, but did not give further details.

On Monday, international and Afghan forces in Khost city repelled an insurgent attack on the provincial government headquarters, NATO said.

The suicide assault in the east came hours after visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates toured an area of southern Afghanistan where international forces recently drove out Taliban insurgents.

Law bars Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi from elections

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's military rulers have barred pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi from running in upcoming elections and may force her own political party to expel her under a new election law unveiled Wednesday.

The Political Parties Registration Law, published in official newspapers, excludes anyone convicted by a court of law from joining a political party and may push Suu Kyi out of her National League for Democracy.

Aung Thein, a lawyer who has defended activists in the country, called the law "absolutely undemocratic and unfair." And the head of an U.S.-based activist group described it as a slap in the face for the international community, which is calling for free and fair elections in the Southeast Asian nation.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who has spent 14 of the past 20 years in detention, was convicted last August of violating the terms of her house arrest by briefly sheltering an American who swam uninvited to her lakeside residence. She was sentenced to a new term of house arrest that is to end this November. The sentence was seen as a way to keep Suu Kyi locked up during the election campaign. Last month, the Supreme Court dismissed her latest appeal for freedom.

Dalai Lama: China aims to annihilate Buddhism

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama said Wednesday that Chinese authorities had rebuffed all his efforts to reach a compromise over Tibet and had instead engaged in systematic repression as part of a plan to "annihilate Buddhism" there.

The Tibetan spiritual leader sounded angry and resigned as he delivered his annual address from exile in India marking the 51st anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule.

Beijing has demonized the Dalai Lama and accused him of fighting for independence for Tibet, which China says is part of its territory. The Dalai Lama says he only wants some form of autonomy for Tibet within China that would allow his people to freely practice their culture, language and religion.

The dispute turned violent two years ago, when anti-government protests erupted in Tibet and China cracked down on the region.

The Dalai Lama said Chinese authorities were conducting a campaign of "patriotic re-education" in monasteries in Tibet.

"They are putting the monks and nuns in prison-like conditions, depriving them the opportunity to study and practice in peace," he said, accusing Chinese of working to "deliberately annihilate Buddhism."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Aid group attacked in northwest Pakistan; 5 dead

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Suspected militants armed with grenades attacked the offices of an international aid group in northwest Pakistan on Wednesday, killing five people working for the organization, police said. The attack targeted World Vision, a large Christian humanitarian group helping survivors of the 2005 Kashmir earthquake in Mansehra district. The dead were all Pakistanis and included two women, said police official Mohammad Sabir.

Bali bombing suspect confirmed dead in police raid

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A top-ranked Southeast Asian militant wanted for planning the deadliest terrorist attack in Indonesia's history has been identified as the man killed in a shootout with police at an Internet cafe, the president said Wednesday. Dulmatin, a 39-year-old Indonesian trained by al-Qaida in Afghanistan who goes by one name, was wanted for the suicide bombings that tore through two Bali nightclubs popular with Westerners in 2002, killing 202 people. He has been one of Southeast Asia's most wanted fugitives and was thought to have fled to the Philippines.

Tasmanian devil colony shows immunity to cancer

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—Australian scientists said Wednesday that the discovery of a genetically distinct colony of Tasmanian devils may save the species from being wiped out by a contagious cancer that has decimated the population. So far, the colony in northwestern Tasmania state has proven immune to the face cancer that has ravaged the iconic animal—made famous worldwide by their Looney Tunes cartoon namesake, Taz. "We think these devils may be able to see the cancer cells as foreign and mount an immune response against them," lead researcher Kathy Belov said. "We think more animals might survive in the wild than we initially thought.

World

Biden condemns new Israeli settlement plan

JERUSALEM (AP)—Vice President Joe Biden condemned an Israeli plan to build hundreds of homes in disputed east Jerusalem on Tuesday, casting a cloud over a high-profile visit that had been aimed at repairing ties with the Jewish state and kickstarting Mideast peace talks.

Israel's Interior Ministry said late Tuesday that it had approved construction of 1,600 new apartments, an embarrassing setback for Biden after a day of warm meetings with top Israeli officials.

Although ministry officials said the announcement was procedural and unconnected to the visit, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was blindsided and tried to contain the damage at a late-night dinner with Biden.

Nonetheless, Biden issued a harshly worded statement after the dinner, saying its timing was especially troubling by coming on the eve of a new round of U.S.-mediated peace talks.

"The substance and timing of the announcement, particularly with the launching of proximity talks, is precisely the kind of step that undermines the trust we need right now," Biden said.

"We must build an atmosphere to support negotiations, not complicate them," he added, warning that "unilateral action taken by either party cannot prejudge the outcome of negotiations."

AP

U.S Vice President Joe Biden, left, shakes hand with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

Israel, Syria pursue nuclear-powered Mideast

PARIS (AP)—Is the Middle East about to go officially nuclear?

Dual announcements Tuesday by bitter rivals Israel and Syria that they want to pursue atomic power plants could complicate the diplomatic storm over Iran's nuclear program and fuel a widening web of suspicion across the Middle East.

In a region where few trust each other to keep a nuclear program peaceful, Israel—which is widely thought to have a secret nuclear weapons program—is unlikely to accept Syrian assurances its program is civilian. Looming in the background Egypt, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates also have ambitions to develop nuclear power.

Israel's Infrastructure Minister Uzi Landau dodged regional politics in announcing his country's intentions at a nuclear energy conference in Paris, painting them instead in earth friendly tones.

"We need this energy source because it is environmentally clean," Landau told The Associated Press on the sidelines of the conference. Nuclear fission contributes far less to global warming than burning of coal, but it worries many because of the risks of long-term waste storage and proliferation of potentially deadly nuclear technology.

Al-Kibar
SYRIA
20 km
20 miles
LEBANON
Damascus
Al-Hadjar
Med. Sea
ISRAEL
West Bank
JORDAN
Nahal Soreq
Jerusalem
Gaza Strip
Dimona
Nuclear ambitions
Israel and Syria say they will develop nuclear energy, which contributes less to global warming but raises the possibility of nuclear proliferation.
Where they stand
Israel
Syria
Capabilities
• Currently uses natural gas, coal
• Has knowledge, infrastructure to build nuclear power plants
• Currently uses oil, natural gas,
• Needs assistance; has sought help from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea
Plants
• Research center at Dimona (KAMAG); thought to have been used to build weapons
• Smaller research center at Nahal Soreq (MAMAG)
• Chinese-built research reactor at Al-Hadjar
• IAEA investigating site at Al-Kibar, alleged by Israel and U.S. to have a secret plutonium-producing reactor
Nuclear non-proliferation treaty
Not signed; has not publicly declared nuclear status; believed to have 100-200 warheads
• Signed; suspected of harboring nuclear weapons ambitions; military involved in program
© 2010 MCT
Source: ESRI, Nuclear Threat Initiative
Graphic: Pat Carr, Melina Yingling

WORLD BRIEFS

Suspect: Charges in Argentine bomb case are 'lies'

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—An Iranian accused of masterminding the 1994 bombing of a Jewish cultural center that killed 85 people dismissed the allegations as "lies" on Tuesday and said he won't appear before an Argentine court. Moshen Rabbani, Iran's former cultural attache in Buenos Aires, was interviewed on Radio Cooperativa by Argentine protest leader Luis D'Elia during a trip to Tehran. That meeting has offended Argentine Jews and the prosecutor investigating the bombing. D'Elia and Rabbani dismissed them as "Zionists" in the radio interview. Rabbani is among six bombing suspects on Interpol's most-wanted list. He said he should not be considered a fugitive and said Iran "had nothing to do with the bombings."

UN report: Much of Somalia's food aid diverted

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Much of the food aid intended for Somalia's poor is diverted to corrupt contractors, radical Islamist militants and local U.N. workers, according to a Security Council report. The findings, not yet made public, were first reported by The New York Times Tuesday. A UN diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because the report has not yet been released, confirmed to the Associated Press that "a significant diversion" of food delivered by the UN food program is being diverted to cartels who were selling it illegally. The report blames the problem on improper food distribution, the diplomat said.

Mandatory insurance proposed for UK dogs

LONDON (AP)—A chip for Spot? In a country where guns are tightly controlled and even carrying a kitchen knife can bring prison time, some thugs use dogs to menace their victims. Now the British government is proposing that dog owners be forced to get microchips and take out insurance for their pets. Postal workers were delighted by the proposal announced Tuesday. But opponents complained it would impose a financial penalty on innocent pet owners—while criminals with violent animals would simply shirk the law. The plan risks "penalizing millions of law-abiding dog owners with the blunt instrument of a dog tax," warned opposition lawmaker Nick Herbert.

Environment

22 kg of gold 'mined' from cellular phones in Japan recycling program

MCT

Cell phones contain valuable and toxic metals that can be recycled, and working phones can be collected and reused by others.

TOKYO—A total of 22 kilograms of gold, worth about 70 million yen (about US$784,313), was recovered from discarded cell phones that had been collected in a campaign by the Japanese government, according to the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry.

About 567,000 cell phones were collected during the campaign, which started in November in an effort to recycle precious and rare metals used in mobile phones.

In addition to gold, 79 kilograms of silver, 5,670 kilograms of copper and two kilograms of palladium were recovered, the ministry said.

Cell phones are often referred to as "urban mines" because such precious and rare metals are used in the devices.

The retrieved metals will be sold to refiners for recycling, the ministry added.

It is believed that about 200 million used cell phones are left uncollected at homes and elsewhere in the country. Many people are believed to keep their old cell phones to use as telephone directories and cameras.

About 1,800 electronics retail stores and supermarkets across Japan took part in the campaign, which ended at the end of February.

The campaign gave away gift vouchers worth a total of 230 million yen (US$2.577 million) to 158,800 people by lottery. When people turned in mobile phones they no longer use to participating stores, they were given application tickets for the lottery.

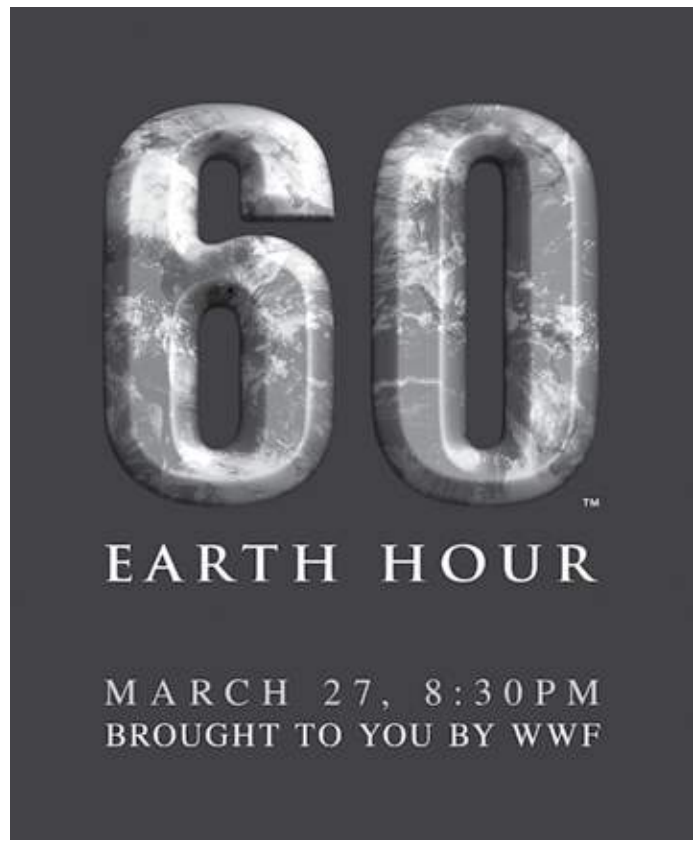
If the customers purchased new mobile phones priced at 2,500 yen or more at the same time, they were eligible to apply to one of three courses in which they had a chance to win 1,000 yen, 5,000 yen (US$56) or 50,000 yen worth of coupons. Even if they did not buy a new cell phone, they were still allowed to apply for the 1,000 yen coupon course. ***(The Yomiuri Shimbun)***

CNMI to participate in its first Earth Hour

On March 27 at 8:30pm the Division of Environmental quality is encouraging CNMI residents and businesses to turn their lights off for one hour in support of the World Wildlife Fund-sponsored Earth Hour event that seeks to raise awareness and promote global action on climate change.

In 2007 the city of Sydney, Australia decided to take a stand against global climate change by turning off their lights for one hour. This was the beginning of what has become the largest worldwide event calling for action on climate change: Earth Hour.

Since its beginnings in Sydney, Earth Hour has grown exponentially in its scope and worldwide participation. In 2009, 4,159 cities, towns, and municipalities from 88 different countries participated in the event. Hundreds of millions of people turned out their lights in an effort to raise awareness and promote action on climate change. In 2010 we will add the CNMI to that voice.



Being an island nation, the CNMI will be amongst the countries most affected by climate change. Due to low elevation, rising sea levels put Commonwealth buildings, homes, and infrastructure at risk. Increasing ocean temperatures threaten the health of the coral reefs that the islands depend on for food, tourism, and recreation. Higher probabilities of large storms and droughts stand to greatly affect island agriculture.

Participating in Earth Hour will help to raise local awareness about the risks and causes of climate change as well as add to the global effort to convince leaders worldwide that the time for action on climate change is now.

WWF and its local DEQ partners ask for community support to help spread the word about Earth Hour and to turn lights off between 8:30pm and 9:30pm on Saturday, March 27. More information can be found at earthhour.org or at the local CNMI Web site: earth-hour-northern-mariana-islands.blogspot.com. ***(PR)***

EPA launches environmental justice video contest

WASHINGTO, D.C. (EPA)—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sponsoring an environmental justice video contest that challenges professional or aspiring filmmakers to create videos that capture the faces of the environmental justice movement. The Faces of the Grassroots contest is an opportunity to publicly exhibit creativity with environmental justice stories, and connect with others working to raise awareness of the movement.

"Faces of the Grassroots will help EPA expand the conversation on environmentalism and work for environmental justice," said Charles Lee, director of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice. "Participants can make a difference for the historically underrepresented in their community by using motion pictures to show the struggles and triumphs they have endured to advance environmental justice."

MORE INFORMATION:
http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/events/video-contest.html
Informational video on the contest:
http://www.epa.gov/multimedia/playercontents/video/EJVideoContest/index.html

Videos can focus on any environmental justice activity, issue, or topic. Examples would be a music video about climate change, or a video recording a successful environmental justice project that has made a community a healthier and happier place to live.

Awards will be given to the winning submissions in each category. The videos will also be featured on EPA's Web site and may be used as public service announcements. Entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on Thursday, April 8, 2010. EPA will announce winners in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

Below are the categories and prize money:

Public Service Announcements (30 or 60 seconds)

1st Place - $2,500
2nd Place - $1,500
3rd Place - $1,000
Student Winner - $500 (13-18 years old)

Informational Video (3-5 minutes)

1st Place - $2,500
2nd Place - $1,500
3rd Place - $1,000
Student Winner - $500 (13-18 years old)

DO YOUR PART

Save water easily in the bathroom

By Terri Bennett
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER (CHARLOTTE, N.C.)

Water is our planet's most valuable resource. Providing enough clean water for every person will be one of the biggest challenges we face in the coming decades.

Americans use more water per person than any other country. On average, each one of us uses about 100 gallons of drinking water a day, and almost half of that is in the bathroom. Do Your Part and install some easy fixes in the bathroom that will save water and money instantly.

For many of us, the toilet is where we flush away most of our water. Toilets made before 1992 use more than 3 gallons of water with every flush. New, improved low-flow toilets use just 1.6 gallons of water per flush. Making the switch can save 4,000 gallons of water every year.

If you're not quite ready to make the upgrade, there's a free alternative.

ON THE NET
■ www.DoYourPart.com

Make a water displacement device for a regular toilet tank using a plastic half-gallon jug. Put some gravel or sand in the bottom of the jug and fill with water. Place the jug in the tank away from the flushing mechanism. This no-cost solution will save you a half-gallon of water every time you flush.

A low-flow showerhead is another easy way to conserve water and save money. These water-conserving devices use air to create water pressure, saving up to 3 gallons of water every minute.

That's 11,000 gallons of water a year for every person in your home who takes a daily 10-minute shower. Taking shorter showers will conserve even more.

To maximize your water conserving efforts, look for fixtures with the WaterSense logo. This certifies that the product meets the Environmental Protection Agency's criteria for water efficiency.

Some low-flow fixtures include a built-in valve that will shut off the water while maintaining the water temperature—ideal for those who like to shave in the shower. When you install a low-flow showerhead you'll be using less water, but don't forget about the energy savings you'll create by heating less water.

TERRI BENNETT/MCT

On average, each one of us uses about 100 gallons of drinking water a day and almost half of that is in the bathroom. Do Your Part and install some easy fixes in the bathroom that will have you saving water and money instantly.

If you find yourself waiting more than a few seconds for hot water when you turn on the faucet, investing in a hot water recirculator will save you both water and time. These devices keep hot water circulating through the pipes in your home so it's ready on demand.

The best pump system is one that has a temperature-controlled bypass valve and a timer on the pump that can be programmed to operate only during the times you need it most. A hot water recirculator ranges from $200 to $600 depending on the model and installation.

Even the simple act of turning off the water while you brush your teeth can save more than 500 gallons a year for every person in your home.

And adding a $2 aerator on every faucet can save thousands more gallons of water by reducing the flow of water to less than 2 gallons a minute.

Do Your Part and use less water in the bathroom. It's easy and relatively inexpensive to make some simple changes that will conserve our most precious natural resource for tomorrow and beyond.

Life & Style

‘She’s Out of My League’ hotties share secrets, but they’re still out of our league

By ROGER MOORE
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

The very title “She’s Out of My League” might scare mere mortals away from wanting to play the “She,” or even from that first meeting with the filmmakers. You can’t have an ounce of humility about your looks if you’re described in the script as “a ten, a HARD ten.”

Alice Eve didn’t flinch.

“I only found out about the ‘hard ten’ thing afterwards,” she protests. “But you know what it is? Even when they describe the character as ‘beautiful’ or ‘gorgeous,’ you have to treat it the way you would an audition for a character who’s supposed to be pregnant or a heroin addict. You can’t assume that the description in the script is all that you are, or aren’t. You have to show up and try to play it, carry yourself as she would and maybe they’ll see you as the character, even if you aren’t a heroin addict of a ‘hard ten.’”

We’re convinced. Eve, 28, is a native Brit once labeled a “posh blonde” by the BBC—a label that still sticks. Eve went all out, playing a successful and gorgeous young woman who is drawn, somewhat inexplicably, to Kirk, an airport security guard played by Jay Baruchel—nobody’s idea of a “hard ten.” What convinces her that audiences will buy into it?

“Tiger Woods,” she says. “My character had been totally heartbroken by this hunk pilot. He’d cheated on her and if you’ve ever lived through anything like that, you know how traumatic that is. I mean, look at the Tiger Woods thing, all the pain and humiliation that’s caused. Your natural reaction after something like that is to look for the guy’s exact opposite, someone who is honest and who plays his cards straight. Kirk, to her, is a guy with a lot less ego, somebody who isn’t inclined to cheat.”

Eve says she could “totally fall for a guy like Baruchel, who’s “tall and funny and smells nice.”

The message of the movie? “Recognize your good traits as assets,” Eve says.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES/MCT

Alice Eve stars as Molly in the DreamWorks Pictures comedy “She’s Out of My League,” a Paramount Pictures release.

Or maybe “personality counts,” jokes Krysten Ritter, the “hard ten” who plays the best friend of Eve’s character. Ritter claims that it’s “a Hollywood myth, an over-generalization” that stunning women travel in packs, but here the matched 28-year-olds are, crossing the country, doing promotional events at Hooters near and far.

“My character was described in the script as sort of ‘frumpy, unattractive best friend,’ “ Ritter recalls. “When I got the role I was like, ‘I guess I can go out drinking until all hours, la di dah!’”

But Eve, who has earned great reviews for giving dimensions to other characters who might have just been a “posh blonde” or a “hard ten,” still says that label is a trap. She knows what goes into creating that image.

“You watch what you have to eat, do Pilates, get as many facials as you can stand, spend way too much time getting your hair puffed out, all for this role,” she says. “It takes a team of people to turn you into someone who looks like that girl on the film.”

Bottom line: ‘League’ star says no to no-pants day

By LUIS ARROYAVE
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

MCT

Kirk (Jay Baruchel, left), an average Joe, cannot believe his luck when the beautiful Molly (Alice Eve, right) falls for him in the DreamWorks Pictures comedy “She’s Out of My League,” a Paramount Pictures release.

CHICAGO—Jay Baruchel had mixed feelings when DreamWorks approached him to play the lead character in the comedy “She’s Out of My League.” On one hand, it was the starring role. On the other, they wanted him to play a character who is so awkward and unattractive his friends and family can’t believe he landed a beautiful girlfriend.

“I was like, ‘I’m flattered you guys would like to hire me, but I’m kind of insulted,’ Baruchel said recently while promoting the film with co-star Nate Torrence. “The first draft of the script had even more references to how repulsive I am. I sounded like a Garbage Pail Kid.

“But hey, it ended up paying my mother’s rent.”

Speaking of dear ol’ mom, Baruchel was asked to go bottomless for a “grooming” scene but declined because he didn’t want his mother to see him naked, among other reasons.

“If they really wanted me to show my (butt), they should have asked that question when they were deciding how much money they were going to pay me,” said Baruchel, who helped select the body double used in his place. “I ended up getting (butt) approval. I saw four (butts) on an iPhone and said ‘Yeah, that one.’”

Torrence didn’t have the luxury of a double in the scene, which features his character, Devon, helping Baruchel’s character, Kirk, with his pre-date manscaping. The Second City alum, whom you may remember from the Capital One credit card commercials with David Spade, called the experience “the worst day of filming of my life.”

“I was lucky everything was covered up, but it was tough,” Torrence said. “They kept saying ‘Nate, we need you to get closer with the razor. It doesn’t look real.’”

On the poster for the film, which hits theaters Friday, the tagline reads, “How can a10 go for a 5?” — a reference to the female lead’s “10 out of10” looks and Kirk’s status as a “5.”

“The gist of the movie is that the ratings system is for the birds,” Baruchel said.

So you’re saying you’re a 7?

“I’m saying I’m a (bleeping) 10, bro,” responded Baruchel.

AP

The Phantom, played by Ramin Karimloo, right, performs a scene with Christine, played by Sierra Boggess, from the sequel to The Phantom of the Opera, “Love Never Dies” at the Adelphi Theatre in central London, Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

Sequel to ‘Phantom of the Opera’ opens in London

LONDON (AP)—Will the magic of the Phantom strike twice for Andrew Lloyd Webber?

The professional critics’ reviews haven’t yet come in, but audiences at Tuesday’s world premiere in London of “Love Never Dies”—the sequel to Lloyd Webber’s global hit “Phantom of the Opera”—gave the show a standing ovation.

The star-studded audience, including actors Michael Caine, Rowan Atkinson and musical singer Elaine Paige, rose to their feet and cheered as the show ended, while Lloyd Webber bowed and blew a kiss to the audience.

“Phantom” is a tale of gothic romance set in the Paris Opera that has been seen by 100 million people around the world since it opened in 1986. It is still playing in London and New York, where it is the longest running show in Broadway history.

“Love Never Dies” picks up the story 10 years on, with disfigured genius the Phantom relocated to the bright lights of New York’s Coney Island and still besotted with beautiful soprano Christine Daae.

Many “Phantom” fans have trashed the show in Internet reviews based on preview performances. Some say the score has nothing to rival the earlier show’s catchy, romantic ballads such as “The Music of the Night” and “All I Ask of You,” and the set design has come in for criticism.

Widely read theater bloggers the West End Whingers dubbed the show “Paint Never Dries.”

Lloyd Webber says he’s not concerned.

“A musical takes a while to grow and come together,” he said Tuesday. “Last Wednesday I sat for the first time and I thought, you know what? ‘Love Never Dies’ is a really, really good show.”

The composer said the negative reviews were from “three or four people” writing on the Internet, and said the Web amplified the teething problems experienced by any musical in the run-up to opening night.

“There was one night when the chandelier in ‘Phantom’ failed to rise ... We did half of the show with the chandelier right in the way of most of the audience,” Lloyd Webber said. “You think back on it and you think, ‘If that was on the Net, what would have happened?”

“Love Never Dies” has been in the works for years and carries high expectations.

Lloyd Webber has been developing the show since 1997, working for a while with thriller writer Frederick Forsyth, then with comedian and novelist Ben Elton. The final product has lyrics by Glenn Slater, whose work includes “The Little Mermaid” and “Sister Act.”

Director Jack O’Brien has acknowledged the stakes are high, saying he warned the cast that “no one’s going to thank us for doing this.”

He said Lloyd Webber—who has been recovering from prostate cancer while preparing for the London run—was brave to revisit his biggest success.

“This is kind of his ‘Tempest,’” O’Brien said during rehearsals. “He’s revisiting aspects of his youth, of his own journey. That’s very touching to me. He’s got a lot of money and a lot of prestige. ... He doesn’t have to, but he is compelled to.”

“Love Never Dies” is scheduled to open on Broadway in November, and in Australia next year.

Producer admits to attempted Letterman shakedown

NEW YORK (AP)—A former television producer pressured by debt and riven by jealousy admitted Tuesday he tried to extract vengeance and money by shaking down David Letterman in a case that bared the late-night icon's affairs with staffers.

Robert "Joe" Halderman, 52, pleaded guilty to attempted grand larceny, acknowledging he tried to chisel $2 million from the late-night icon. He threatened to destroy Letterman's reputation by airing his workplace dalliances—using information authorities have said Halderman mined from a former girlfriend's diary.

The plea deal by Halderman, a producer for CBS' "48 Hours Mystery" at the time, spares him a potential 15 years in prison had he been convicted. The 52-year-old is due instead to get a six-month jail sentence and 1,000 hours of community service.

It also spares Letterman the prospect of a trial that could have put his private life on display, though the comedian masterfully defused much of Halderman's potential bombshell last fall by revealing himself that he had slept with women on his staff.

The case at first dealt a blow to Letterman's nice-guy image; even he described his office affairs as "creepy" as he stunned viewers with an Oct. 1 monologue that disclosed the liaisons and the blackmail plot.

Halderman apologized to the host of the "Late Show," also on CBS, as he spelled out the details of his crime in a Manhattan court, reading a prepared statement at first so quickly that the judge asked him to slow down.

"I attempted to extort $2 million from David Letterman by threatening to disclose personal and private information about him, whether true or false," he said.

AP

In this Oct. 2, 2009 file photo, Robert J. Halderman is arraigned in State Supreme Court in New York on charges of trying to blackmail David Letterman for $2 million to keep quiet about the comic's sexual affairs.

"I feel great remorse for what I have done."

Halderman acknowledged delivering the threat to Letterman's driver, in the form of a screenplay outline, or "treatment."

"This so-called treatment was just a thinly veiled threat to ruin Mr. Letterman if he did not pay me a lot of money," Halderman said, dressed in a gray suit. He subsequently met with Letterman's lawyer, who eventually gave him a phony $2 million check.

"I knew throughout this time that I was not engaged in a legitimate business transaction with Mr. Letterman and that what I was doing was against New York law," Halderman said, adding that he realized he had violated the privacy of Letterman and his family.

"I feel great remorse for what I have done," Halderman said, apologizing to Letterman, the comic's family, and his own former girlfriend, Stephanie Birkitt.

"He was both jealous and enraged" and under financial pressure, his attorney Gerald Shargel said later Tuesday.

Outside court, Halderman repeated his apologies, declined any interviews and said no more. He remains free on bail until his sentencing, set for May 4.

CBS News said Halderman was no longer an employee but declined to give any specifics on whether he had quit or been fired.

Through his lawyers, Letterman thanked Manhattan prosecutors for pursuing the case.

"When they became involved in this case, I had complete faith that a just and appropriate result was inevitable," he said in a statement they read outside court.

The wrap-up of the case came more than four months after Letterman's announcement on his show, stunning viewers and impressing critics, who called his alternately folksy and frank speech a masterful move to seize control of the story.

While he couldn't entirely keep it in his grasp—the fallout included an online Vanity Fair article in the fall by a writer who claimed sexual favoritism drove her to quit Letterman's show in 1990—viewers have more than stuck with him. His show averages 4.14 million viewers today, up 6 percent from 3.91 million a year ago.

But now, after beating rival Conan O'Brien on NBC's "The Tonight Show," Letterman is again facing Jay Leno, who returned to host "Tonight" last week after nine months' absence. In past years, Leno consistently beat Letterman in the ratings.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. noted that Letterman had come to authorities knowing the case could push his private life into public view.

Letterman's scandal is now over, but can he beat Leno?

NEW YORK (AP)—Dave Letterman can heave a huge sigh of relief after the guilty plea Tuesday of a TV producer charged with trying to extort him.

No time-consuming legal mumbo-jumbo will be dogging Letterman. No more messy, embarrassing public revelations of his sexual affairs—real and alleged. No more probing into the private life of a man who famously cherishes his privacy, despite how masterfully he managed, and even exploited, the world's invasions into it, when his crisis demanded.

Now it's over. Robert "Joe" Halderman now faces six months' jail time for trying to shake down Letterman to the tune of $2 million, closing a squalid, shocking and titillating chapter in the late-night saga.

But it was a chapter that had frankly overstayed its welcome. The public, forever seeking the next new thing, has already moved on.

AP

In this photo released by CBS, "The Good Wife" star, Julianna Margulies, joins host David Letterman, right, on the set of the "Late Show with David Letterman," Tuesday, March 9, 2010, in New York.

And that goes double for fans in the late-night arena, where in recent weeks the spotlight had shifted from CBS (home of "Late Show with David Letterman" and, by coincidence, Halderman's former employer, CBS News) to bumbling, bedeviled NBC.

NBC was the site of the latest round of late-night follies, which had nothing to do with Letterman.

Instead, Conan O'Brien lost his footing as the host of "The Tonight Show," then his job, and took his leave in January. Jay Leno, after flopping in prime time, scrambled back to "Tonight" after just nine months' absence.

Of course, the weak competition Conan posed against Dave was a lucky twist in the Letterman drama. It certainly didn't hurt Letterman that last fall, when he was weathering the scandal of his career, his nightly rival wasn't Leno, who had beat him in the ratings for years, but instead O'Brien, whom he beat handily, despite (or even thanks to) his troubles.

Now, with Leno freshly reinstalled at "Tonight," Letterman is spared concerns about lawsuits to concentrate on resuming a faceoff with Leno for viewers that began in 1993.

That's where Letterman's attention is focused.

And that's where the audience's attention is focused, too.

The operative late-night narrative has reverted, at least for the time being, to the horse race of old. Now, observers can wait for Leno's welcome-back surge to subside so they can see if he maintains his lead in the ratings over Letterman, as he did for so long before handing off "Tonight" to O'Brien last May.

Or has Leno's popularity been damaged in the meantime, by his failure with the prime-time "Jay Leno Show" or by seemingly evicting O'Brien from "Tonight"?

Time will tell.

In any case, the irrelevance of the Letterman affair was vividly displayed in an article in the latest issue of Vanity Fair that desperately tries, and dismally fails, to breathe new life into it.

Mostly through unnamed sources, the article retraces the "collision course" of "the cash-strapped veteran newsman and the multimillionaire entertainment star."

It quotes Madeleine Smithberg, a one-time segment producer for his show, who equates Letterman's magnetism to none other than Bill Clinton's.

"I would be in my office with my back to the door," she is quoted as saying. "Suddenly, I would notice that the hair on my arms and neck would be standing on end. I'd turn around and there would be Dave, standing in my doorway. The man is electric!"

And on and on it goes. But the effect of the article: Who cares anymore?

Leibovitz can keep portfolio under new debt deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Annie Leibovitz, the photographer who mismanaged her fortune so badly that she faced losing legal rights to some of pop culture's most enduring images, has reached a long-term agreement with a private investment firm to help manage her debt and market her vast portfolio, both sides said Tuesday.

Leibovitz, 60, will retain total control of her multimillion-dollar portfolio under the deal she signed with Colony Capital LLC of Santa Monica, Calif., on Monday, said Richard Nanula, a principal with the firm.

Leibovitz

Under the agreement, Colony will become the photographer's sole creditor and help market her archive of such provocative images as a nude John Lennon cuddling with a clothed Yoko Ono hours before his death, as well as a nude and very pregnant Demi Moore.

Leibovitz obtained an extension last year to repay a $24 million loan to a Manhattan firm, Art Capital Group, in a financial dispute that had threatened her rights to those images and others.

The specific terms of the new deal were not disclosed, but Nanula said "it pays off all the Art Capital loan. ... It cleans up the rest of her balance sheet."

The Colony loan also contains more than $20 million of real estate collateral, Nanula added—Leibovitz's three Manhattan town houses. The Art Capital loan was repaid Monday, he said.

Art Capital confirmed the repayment and said in a statement that it "is pleased to announce that its loan to Annie Leibovitz has been satisfied. We are encouraged by the results of this complex transaction and wish Ms. Leibovitz the best in all of her future endeavors."

"It's long-term in nature," Nanula said of the partnership with Leibovitz. "Our interest is in helping her be successful and to be her financial partner."

Court sentences German royal to pay a large fine

HILDESHEIM, Germany (AP)—Princess Caroline of Monaco's husband was convicted in Germany on Tuesday of a decade-old altercation in Kenya and fined $270,000.

Hildesheim state court Judge Andreas Schlueter found Ernst August von Hannover guilty Tuesday of intentionally causing bodily harm to a Kenyan hotelier, German news agency DAPD reported.

The judge followed the prosecution's request and fined him the equivalent of 40 days of his salary, which the court estimated at €5,000 daily. Ernst August has refused to disclose his finances to the court.

The 56-year-old great-grandson of the last German emperor, Wilhelm II, was retried after being convicted in 2004 and fined €445,000.

Ernst August did not deny the assault but was seeking to have his sentence reduced. While the fine is lower than in the previous ruling, his lawyers could not secure the acquittal they tried to obtain.

In the first trial, Ernst August was ruled to have hit hotelier Josef Bruhnlehner on the Kenyan holiday island of Lamu repeatedly with a metal ring that he was wearing. The prince and Caroline, however, maintained he only slapped the man and Bruhnlehner greatly exaggerated his injuries.

Judge Schlueter stressed that the court could only find proof of Ernst August slapping Bruhnlehner twice in the face. The hotelier repeatedly exaggerated his injuries and thereby became "the defense's best witness," Schlueter said.

Caroline testified behind closed doors on her husband's behalf in a 2008 hearing that led to the retrial. In January, the princess, 53, testified again for him publicly at the Hildesheim court, arguing that Bruhnlehner was exaggerating.

Kenyan authorities did not arrest Ernst August after the incident, but it was pursued in Germany where the law allows prosecutors to charge citizens who commit crimes abroad.

Fawcett omission from Oscar obituary segment no accident

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The executive director of the film academy said Tuesday that Farrah Fawcett wasn't included in the Academy Awards' In Memoriam segment because the actress was better known as a TV star.

It was a difficult decision for the committee that assembles the segment to omit Fawcett, said Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences executive director Bruce Davis, who added that he's not surprised some fans and family members are upset.

Fawcett's family issued a statement through a publicist Tuesday saying they were "deeply saddened" and "bereft with this exclusion of such an international icon who inspired so many for so many reasons."

Davis said the academy committee "was kind of figuring that probably the Farrah Fawcett and Gene Barry omissions would be the ones we'd get the most comments on." He acknowledged that he "did get one letter about Miss Fawcett."

After much discussion by the committee, Fawcett and Barry were both omitted from the necrology sequence. Davis and his colleagues thought that while the two actors appeared in movies, they were better known for their "remarkable television work" and would be more appropriately honored by the television academy at the Emmy Awards.

Davis said "an unusual number of extremely distinguished screenwriters" died this year, and the academy tried to honor many of them in the short memorial segment.

"In every category, you're going to miss some wonderful people," said Davis, who has helped assemble Oscar's In Memoriam montage since it began in 1993.

When asked why Michael Jackson was included when actors were left out, Davis explained that Jackson had appeared in a popular theatrical film recently. Fawcett and Jackson both died on June 25.

"Think of all the blogging we would have gotten if we had left him out!" he said.

Still, he said he understands that the Fawcett and Barry omissions sting.

"There's nothing you can say to people, particularly to family members, within a day or two of the show that helps at all," Davis said. "They tend to be surprised and hurt, and we understand that and we're sorry for it."

Farrah Fawcett

Andy Richter calls 'Tonight' exit frustrating

NEW YORK (AP)—Andy Richter, Conan O'Brien's sidekick at "The Tonight Show," is acknowledging some ill will toward NBC and Jay Leno in the wake of the network's late-night upheaval.

"Why wouldn't I?" said Richter, who was filling in Tuesday for Regis Philbin on "Live! with Regis and Kelly."

Richter told Kelly Ripa he was frustrated that Leno was allowed to reclaim "The Tonight Show" host chair just nine months after O'Brien had inherited that plum assignment.

"NBC, definitely, everybody said they were going to do something and they didn't," said Richter, implying the network broke long-standing commitments it made to O'Brien.

O'Brien left NBC and "Tonight" in January amid complaints by NBC of low ratings. NBC had proposed reinstating Leno in the 11:35 p.m. EST slot and bumping O'Brien back a half-hour.

O'Brien's future is unclear. So is Richter's, though he said, for now, he's still an NBC employee, "so we'll see if those checks keep coming."

He called a rumored live concert tour for O'Brien and Co. "a distinct possibility."

It all ended much quicker than he could have imagined, said Richter, who figured his "Tonight" job was "as good as it gets in show business."

He said he figured "I'm a tenured professor of show business now," but quickly learned otherwise. "I guess I'm really good at getting kicked off the air, because it's what I've been doing for the last 10 years."

Ripa had a suggestion for his next career move.

"You and Conan should do another show on another network called 'We Were on The Tonight Show,'" she joked. "Wouldn't that be exciting!"

AP
In this March 18, 2009 file photo, Andy Richter arrives for the "Inside 'The Office'" panel discussion at the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in Los Angeles.

Mass. Sen. Scott Brown to release memoir in 2011

NEW YORK (AP)—Sen. Scott Brown, the Massachusetts Republican who pulled off one of the biggest upsets in recent years by winning the seat once held by Sen. Edward Kennedy, has a book deal.

Brown

HarperCollins announced Tuesday that it will publish Brown's memoir, currently untitled, in early 2011. Financial terms were not disclosed; Brown was represented by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose many clients have included Kennedy, the liberal icon who died last summer after more than 40 years in office.

"I am humbled to have the opportunity to share my personal story in hopes to inform, encourage and inspire others," the 50-year-old Brown said in a statement released by the publisher.

Despite running in a solidly Democratic state, Brown won a special election in January to serve the remainder of Kennedy's term and became a hero to Republicans nationwide.

"Sen. Brown will write about his family background, his early career, and his ascent to the office of Massachusetts senator, one of the biggest political coups of the decade," according to a statement issued by HarperCollins. "He will also discuss the policies and issues he cares about most passionately."

HarperCollins also noted that Brown's contract will be subject to review by the Senate Ethics Committee.

Samsung, Panasonic start selling 3-D TVs this week

NEW YORK (AP)—Samsung and Panasonic will start selling 3-D TVs in U.S. stores this week, inaugurating what manufacturers hope is the era of 3-D viewing in the living room.

However, because the sets require bulky glasses, and there is for now little to watch in the enhanced format, it will take at least a few years for the technology to become mainstream, if that happens at all.

Samsung Electronics Co. announced Tuesday that it is selling two 3-D sets this week. For $3,000, buyers get a 46-inch set, two pairs of glasses and a 3-D Blu-ray player.

Panasonic Corp. has said it will start selling 3-D sets Wednesday.

The sales debut comes as moviegoers have shown considerable enthusiasm for the latest wave of 3-D titles in the theater. Last weekend, "Alice in Wonderland" grossed an estimated $116.2 million at the box office, beating the first-weekend receipts of "Avatar," the winter's 3-D blockbuster.

Although it's clear that 3-D sets for the home will appeal to technology and home-theater enthusiasts, it remains to be seen whether other consumers will be enticed to spend at least $500 above the price of a comparably sized standard TV and Blu-ray player.

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Alice in Wonderland
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
Fantasy • Rated PG
Synopsis
Tim Burton takes a stab at Lewis Carroll's timeless tale of a young girl (Mia Wasikowska) lost within a fantasyland with this 3-D production of Alice in Wonderland. The Lion King's Linda Woolverton provides the script, with Hollywood heavyweights Richard Zanuck and Joe Roth heading up the production team. Burton veteran collaborator Johnny Depp co-stars as The Mad Hatter in the Walt Disney Productions picture.

Dear John
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Director Lasse Hallström and screenwriter Jamie Linden collaborate to adapt author Nicholas Sparks' novel about a young soldier who falls for an idealistic college girl. Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried) was on spring break when she first met John Tyree (Channing Tatum), who was home on temporary leave. For the smitten soldier it was practically love at first sight. Over the course of the next seven years, when each deployment seemed more treacherous than the last, the love letters that Savannah sent to John were one of the only things that kept him going.

Shutter Island
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo
Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
Mark Ruffalo and Leonardo DiCaprio team up as a pair of U.S. Marshals who travel to a secluded island off the coast of Massachusetts to search for an escaped mental patient, uncovering a web of deception along the way as they battle the forces of nature and a prison riot in this Martin Scorsese-helmed period picture. Laeta Kalogridis adapts Dennis Lehane's novel of the same name, with Paramount Pictures and Columbia Pictures splitting production and distribution duties.

The Lightning Thief
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan
Fantasy • Rated PG

Cop Out
Friday 4:25 7:20 10:00
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:20 10:00
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bruce Willis, Tracy Morgan
Comedy • Rated R

The Wolfman
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins
Horror • Rated R

Valentine's Day
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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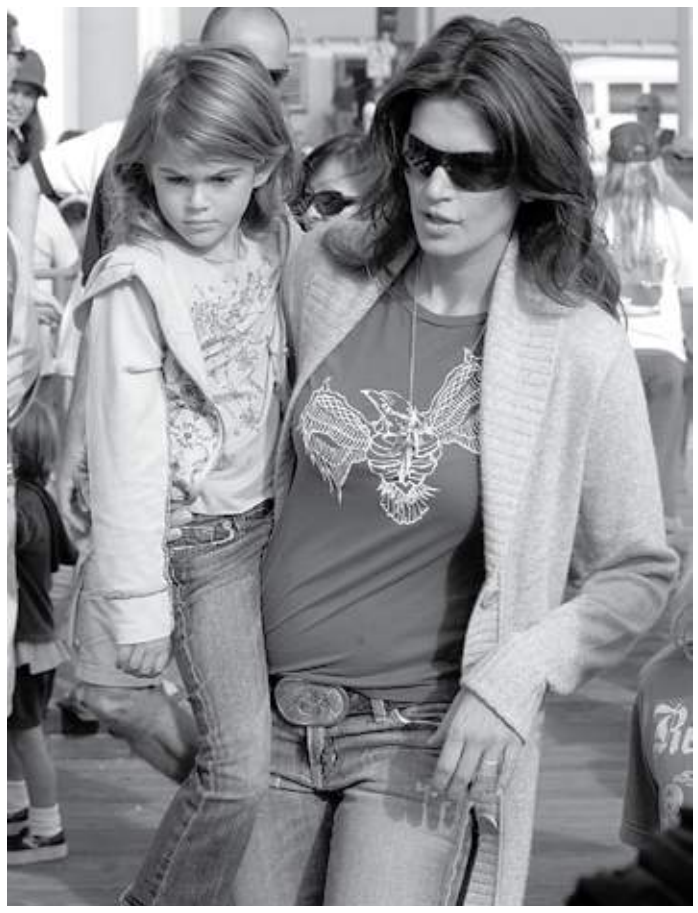
Germany: Man jailed for Cindy Crawford extortion

BERLIN (AP)—A German man who tried to blackmail supermodel Cindy Crawford with a photo of her bound and gagged 7-year-old daughter was sentenced to two years in jail Tuesday.

Edis Kayalar, 26, was found guilty after confessing that he tried to extort €100,000 ($135,888) from Crawford and her husband Rande Gerber last year using the photo, the court in the southern German town of Kirchheim unter Tech said.

A U.S. affidavit filed in the case said Kayalar believed he could have received $500,000 from the tabloids for the photograph and that he deserved more money from Crawford and her husband. Kayalar said he "was not trying to destroy a little girl's life, but the release of the photograph was not going to be something positive for the victims' image," according to the document.

The picture which showed the child gagged and tied to a chair was reportedly taken by a former nanny during a "cops and robbers" game.



AP

In this photo taken Oct. 22, 2006, model Cindy Crawford, right, and her daughter Kaya Gerber attend the "Paddle Out Protest" at the Malibu Pier in Malibu, Calif.

Kayalar, who lived illegally in the U.S. from 2007 to 2009, had an affair with the nanny and stole the photo from her last year, Judge Joachim Spieth told the Associated Press.

In July 2009, Gerber met Kayalar, paid him $1,000 "for his troubles" and got a print of the photo. But Kayalar came back asking for more.

After being deported to Germany from the U.S. for an immigration violation, he upped his demands to €100,000, Spieth said.

Because that sum was never paid out, Kayalar was sentenced only for attempted extortion, Spieth said.

The German court took up the case because Kayalar was in Kirchheim unter Tech when he demanded the €100,000, Spieth said.

The maximum sentence for attempted blackmail is five years. The sentence is lower because the plaintiff confessed, he said.

Crawford, who divorced actor Richard Gere in 1995, married Gerber in 1998. They have two children.

Man pleads no contest to stalking Ryan Seacrest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who has repeatedly shown up at Ryan Seacrest's work and events has pleaded no contest to felony stalking.

Chidi Benjamin Uzomah Jr. entered the plea Tuesday in Los Angeles and was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Uzomah was arrested Oct. 30 after he showed up at the E! Entertainment Television headquarters trying to contact Seacrest.

The incident was a violation of a restraining order issued in another case in which Uzomah admitted attacking one of Seacrest's bodyguards at an event.

The popular host of "American Idol" and a radio show obtained a civil restraining order against the 25-year-old.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's office says Uzomah will be sentenced on June 14. He faces up to two years in state prison.

Seacrest

Lindsay Lohan takes swipe at E-Trade babies

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—Lindsay Lohan is feuding with the E-Trade babies.

The actress has filed a $100 million lawsuit claiming a television ad for the Wall Street firm that aired during the Super Bowl and Olympics was modeled after her.

Talking babies in the ad engage in chatter that refers to "milkaholic Lindsay." The 23-year-old actress has famously sought substance abuse treatment.

Lohan's name was never mentioned. But her New York lawyer contends that "Lindsay" is an equally recognizable moniker for her client - like that of Oprah or Madonna.

Lohan's legal team is seeking an injunction to stop future airings.

An E-Trade spokeswoman is declining to comment.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Barker donates $2.5 million to create PETA offices

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bob Barker has donated $2.5 million to help the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals open a new location in Los Angeles. The retired game show host and spay and neuter champion will cut the ribbon Wednesday at the Bob Barker Building on Sunset Boulevard and Alvarado Street. PETA President Ingrid E. Newkirk says Barker could have just given the group a refrigerator but instead he paid for an entire building to be renovated. The building will be home to the group's media, marketing, youth outreach and campaign departments. The 86-year-old Barker delivered his spay and neuter message on "The Price Is Right" for a quarter century. Since he retired in June of 2008, he has taken his activism on the road, promoting freedom for whales, an end to the fur trade and other causes.

Hilary Duff to write young adult book series

NEW YORK (AP)—Welcome the latest celebrity children's author, Hilary Duff. Simon & Schuster Books for Young readers said Tuesday the actress-singer will work on a series of young adult novels that starts with "Elixir," to be published in October. The first novel will feature the worldwide adventures of photojournalist Clea Raymond. Twenty-two-year-old Duff also plans a nonfiction book about children coping with divorce, scheduled for 2012. Duff has written about her own parents' separation in the songs "Stranger" and "Gypsy Woman."

DMX back in jail for alleged probation violation

PHOENIX (AP)—Authorities in Arizona say rapper DMX has been arrested for allegedly violating his probation by using drugs. DMX, whose real name is Earl Simmons, had served about half of his 18-month supervised probation when he was booked Tuesday night into the downtown Phoenix jail. The rapper was released from jail in May after serving a 90-day sentence for felony convictions including cruelty to animals, theft and two drug counts. Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says his deputies have arrested Simmons five times now, including an August 2007 raid on the rapper's north Phoenix home where they found 12 neglected dogs, three buried dogs, drugs and a cache of weapons. Simmons pleaded guilty in late December to cruelty to animals, theft and two drug counts. In 2008, Simmons was arrested for speeding on a Phoenix freeway and allegedly going to a Scottsdale clinic and giving a false name to receive care with the intent of not paying.

'Spartacus' star has non-Hodgkin lymphoma

NEW YORK (AP)—Andy Whitfield, who plays the title role in the Starz Original series "Spartacus: Blood and Sand," has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The British-born actor will begin treatment immediately. The network says the cancer was discovered during a routine checkup as the 38-year-old Whitfield prepared to begin shooting the second season of the action-adventure series, which is filmed in New Zealand. Starz said Tuesday that production has been postponed while Whitfield undergoes treatment. According to the network, doctors say the cancer was detected in its early stages and is "very treatable." "Spartacus" is based on the slave and folk hero from the 1st century B.C. The show has been a breakout success for Starz since it premiered in January. The first season concludes next month.

Girl's arrival turns drinks for two into party of three

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Last week I suggested to a co-worker, "Zack," that I treat him to a beer after work. Before our pints arrived, he disappeared to a corner of the pub to text on his phone, and 10 minutes later his girlfriend showed up. Her being there obligated me to buy her a drink, and it derailed the work-related discussion I had initially had in mind.

The following Monday, I mentioned to Zack that he should have asked me first if it was OK to bring someone else. He was none too pleased to hear that I thought his behavior was rude. How far off base was I? I'll bow to your opinion.

WONDERING IN WESTMOUNT, CANADA

DEAR WONDERING: Did Zack know when you invited him for a beer that you wanted to discuss business? If not, then you're being too hard on him. But if he did know, then asking his girlfriend to join you was presumptuous—and he should have offered to pay for her drink in any case.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old daughter, "Jenna," is in the closet—literally. About a week ago, she moved into her closet. She put her dresser in there, threw some blankets on the floor and that's where she hangs out now. When asked why she doesn't hang out in her room, she says, "I just like it in the closet."

Some of her girlfriends claim to be bisexual or gay. Is she telling me that she's "in the closet" or is she messing with my mind? Some of her friends are into cutting, and Jenna seems to be curious about it. I don't know what to make of any of this. Any advice?

CONCERNED IN HOUSTON

DEAR CONCERNED: How close are you and your daughter? Are you the kind of mother she feels safe talking to about anything that might be troubling her?

Happy, outgoing girls don't usually take refuge in dark, confined spaces. She may be overwhelmed or depressed, or something may be going on in Jenna's life she needs help with but is afraid to tell you. Stay closer to your daughter for a while. If her change in behavior persists, keep probing until you find out what's going on.

Cutting can be an attempt to mask emotional pain, and if she starts, a licensed psychotherapist should be consulted.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have an 11-year-old son who has started having issues with lying—nothing important, just little things like did he do his chores or brush his teeth.

I also have an alcoholic husband who says and does things he doesn't remember later. When I get conflicting stories from the two of them, I don't know whom to believe.

Don't suggest I leave my husband. It's not financially feasible right now, though it is something I am looking into.

WHOM DO I BELIEVE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WHOM: I am not suggesting that you leave your husband, unless he poses a danger to his son during one of his blackouts. However, if I had to choose between a husband who says and does things he doesn't remember later, and an 11-year-old boy who lies occasionally about having brushed his teeth or done his chores, I'd be inclined to believe the more sober of the two, your son. And I'd make darn sure my son understood that, while I might be disappointed he hadn't done what he was supposed to do, he'd be punished if I caught him lying to me about it.

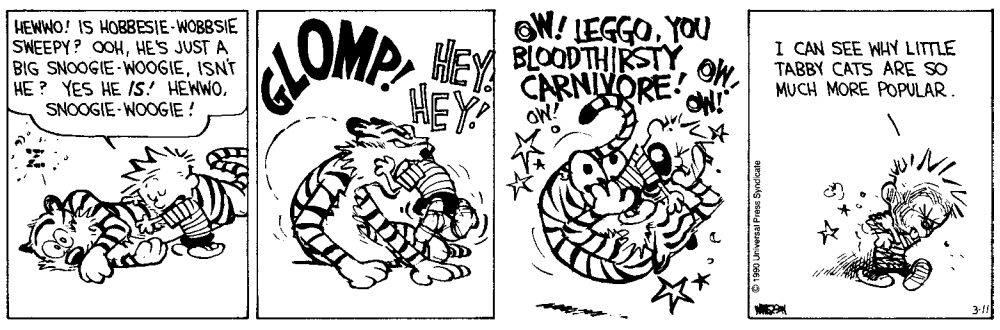
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEWWO! IS HOBBESIE-WOBBSIE SWEEPY? OOH, HE'S JUST A BIG SNOOGIE-WOOGIE, ISN'T HE? YES HE IS! HEWWO, SNOOGIE-WOOGIE!
GLOMP! HEY! HEY!
OW! LEGGO, YOU BLOODTHIRSTY CARNIVORE! OW! OW! OW!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
I CAN SEE WHY LITTLE TABBY CATS ARE SO MUCH MORE POPULAR.
3-11

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMPANY STATED THAT, "IT JUST VANISHED COMPLETELY"
AUTHORITIES ADMIT THAT THIS JUST MAY HAVE BEEN "THE PERFECT CRIME"
www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 3-11
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THERE'S AN ICE CREAM TRUCK PARKED IN THE GARAGE
YOU SAW NOTHING
Distributed by Universal Uclick

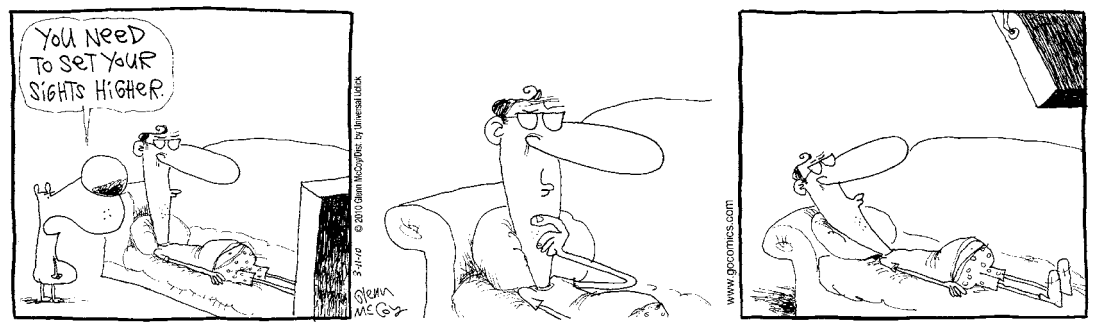
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MOM, I GOT THE HOMEWORK BLUES.
TOO MUCH?
© 2010 Universal Uclick
YEAH. BETWEEN AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, HOMEWORK, DINNER AND BEDTIME, I GET ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES TO MYSELF.
www.gocomics.com
MMMMM. FIFTEEN MINUTES TO MYSELF...
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



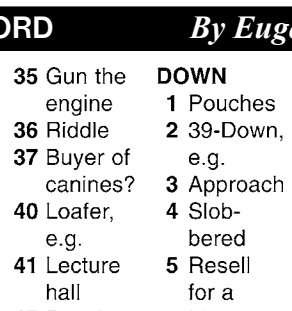
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

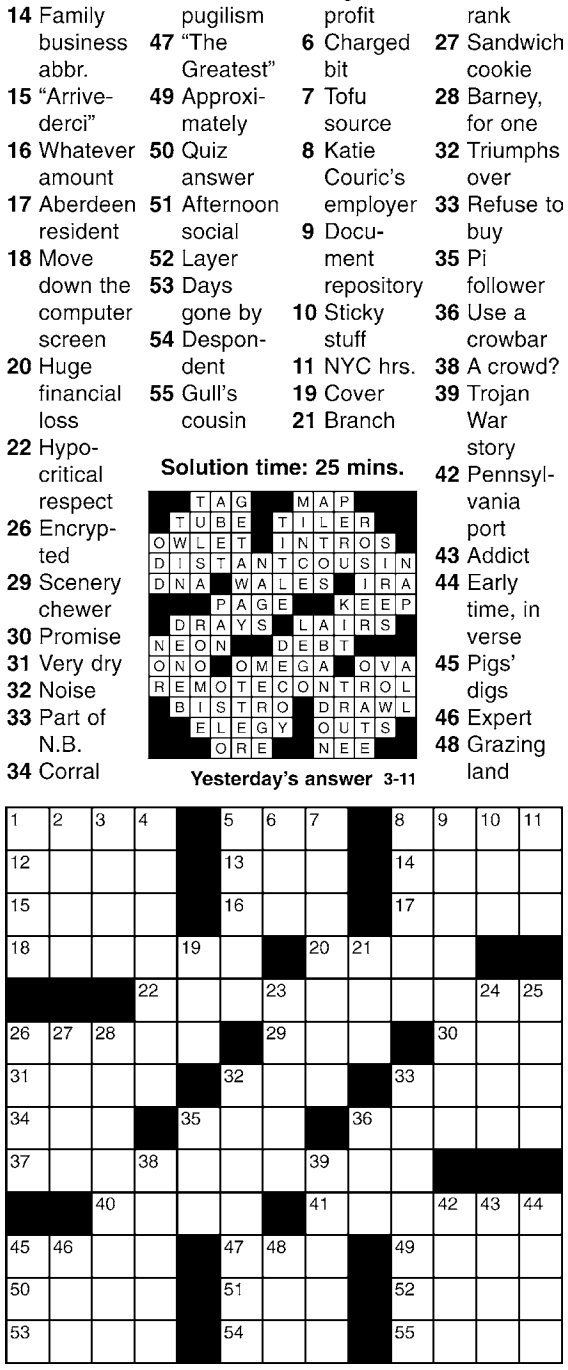
ACROSS
1 Transmit
5 One of the kin
8 Actor Nicolas
12 Mimicry specialist
13 Dove's call
14 Family business abbr.
15 "Arrivederci"
16 Whatever amount
17 Aberdeen resident
18 Move down the computer screen
20 Huge financial loss
22 Hypocritical respect
26 Encrypted
29 Scenery chewer
30 Promise
31 Very dry
32 Noise
33 Part of N.B.
34 Corral
35 Gun the engine
36 Riddle
37 Buyer of canines?
40 Loafer, e.g.
41 Lecture hall
45 Practice pugilism
47 "The Greatest"
49 Approximately
50 Quiz answer
51 Afternoon social
52 Layer
53 Days gone by
54 Despondent
55 Gull's cousin

DOWN
1 Pouches
2 39-Down, e.g.
3 Approach
4 Slobbered
5 Resell for a big profit
6 Charged bit
7 Tofu source
8 Katie Couric's employer
9 Document repository
10 Sticky stuff
11 NYC hrs.
19 Cover
21 Branch
23 Hindu god of destruction
24 Scoop holder
25 Basin accessory
26 P.D. rank
27 Sandwich cookie
28 Barney, for one
32 Triumphs over
33 Refuse to buy
35 Pi follower
36 Use a crowbar
38 A crowd?
39 Trojan War story
42 Pennsylvania port
43 Addict
44 Early time, in verse
45 Pigs' digs
46 Expert
48 Grazing land

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Thora Birch, 28; Terrence Howard, 41; Bobby McFerrin, 60; Sam Donaldson, 76

Happy Birthday: You will need to make changes that appear to be impossible at first but, your insight will lead you in a positive direction. Someone who fears change may try to hold you back. Follow your own heart and head so you don't miss out on something that you find appealing. Listen to how the people around you size up your situation and make the necessary adjustments. Your numbers are 3, 5, 17, 20, 27, 30, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Concentrate on what you can do for others and good things will happen in return. The joy you spread and the ideas you share will lead to an interesting relationship. A self-improvement project will pay off. Don't travel unless it's necessary. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Avoid arguing with people you have to deal with regularly or you will be faced with financial and emotional restrictions. Remain open to suggestions and don't allow your stubbornness to hamper your ability to advance. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may think you are invincible but, if you don't listen to the advice being offered, you may end up redoing, replacing or, even worse, losing a good friend. You may be tempted to lend or borrow money or possessions but problems or complications will set in. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): An old idea or plan will help you out of a tight squeeze. A change at work will lead to better opportunities and possible advancement. Don't limit what you can do or how far you can go because you fear the unknown. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Shake things up a bit. Sign up for a course and you will discover a new way to make a little extra cash. Be careful not to let someone you are in a relationship with stifle your plans or restrict what you can and cannot do. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Listen carefully to what's being said. A partnership you have may not deliver what was promised. Get busy doing your share of the work but don't offer to take on what someone else is supposed to do. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Lean toward creative endeavors that allow you to use your talent and skills. A relationship will be enhanced if you share your ideas. Don't fight change when it's essential for getting ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take part in activities or events that will help you personally and professionally. Don't let emotional matters that arise with family, relatives or a neighbor slow you down. Someone is withholding the truth. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): The emphasis you put on having fun may be held against you if you don't pull your weight or live up to your promises. Problems with authority figures, agencies or institutions will cost you financially. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): People from your past can influence the decisions you make now. Honesty regarding the way you feel about someone is a must. Don't confuse someone's generous nature or kindness for love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): It's what you do for others that will count. Your generosity will bring all sorts of rewards. Sincerity and an honest display of emotion will capture someone's interest. A relationship based on finances will limit what you can do. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Moderation will be your friend. As soon as you make grandiose plans, you will fall short of your goals. Uncertainties are apparent in a personal relationship. Before you make a commitment, know what you are getting into. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outspoken, emotional and sensitive to others. You like to make decisions swiftly and with conviction. You are your own master.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6			3		
		3		7		4		
	1		5				2	7
5		4						
	7			6			9	
						8		6
3	4				7		1	
		8		4		2		
		7			6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	6	3	2	1	8	4	9	5
4	8	5	6	7	9	2	1	3
1	2	9	4	3	5	6	7	8
3	1	8	9	6	4	5	2	7
5	4	2	7	8	3	1	6	9
9	7	6	5	2	1	8	3	4
6	5	7	8	9	2	3	4	1
2	3	4	1	5	7	9	8	6
8	9	1	3	4	6	7	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EASY TO LEARN **Solution: 6 letters**

E A E D Ⓢ M B V E G A S U T S
M L N T A Ⓝ I T R G K C I U Q
E I E S A E Ⓐ P E I E I I T P
M U T M W R R Ⓟ L A I N E O A
O E N H E E T L B A E C T R T
R L I D V N R N A G Y H S L T
I Z O E E E T N E R A P P A E
Z M L G H R E A E C L U E S R
E C M C I E S V R W N M E T N
N D A B S C L T G Y A O D H T
E E N R P O A I A G D R C G R
T V U A S L F L C N L N D U I
S I A I E T U T Z A D O A O C
I C L N E L P M I S F E O H K
L E T D T R A M S K N I H T S

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/11

Agreeable, Answer, Apparent, Brain, Cinch, Clever, Clues, Concentrate, Device, Draw, Elementary, Facile, Game, Genius, Gentle, Gifted, Handy, Listen, Logical, Manual, Master, Memorize, Mind, Moderate, Pattern, Plain, Play, Plum, Quick, Simple, Skill, Smart, Snap, Soft, Solve, Speed, Talent, Teacher, Think, Thought, Tool, Tricks, Tutor, Understand, Usage, View, Whiz

Yesterday's Answer: Action

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
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Limited time offer for 4 GB flash drive for only $9.99 at Sprockets & Rockets pls call 234 1425

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Attorney at Law
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. JOHN T. SABLAN, GLORIA DLG SABLAN, AND ANTONIO W. NEFAIKES, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 07-0177-CV SECOND NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 26, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 008 C 08, situated in Talofofo, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,621 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 C 02, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 04-1103.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on March 16, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of January, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Brigida Palino
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Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 483-4108

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF BRIGIDA PALINO AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF PAULA CAMILLE AYUMAN PALINO, PAULINE NICOLE AYUMAN PALINO, AND ANDREW PAUL AYUMAN PALINO, Minor Children, By: BRIGIDA PALINO, Petitioner.	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0128 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Brigida Palino, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 31st day of March, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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REGISTERED NURSE
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Join the class just starting and get a good job while learning!
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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

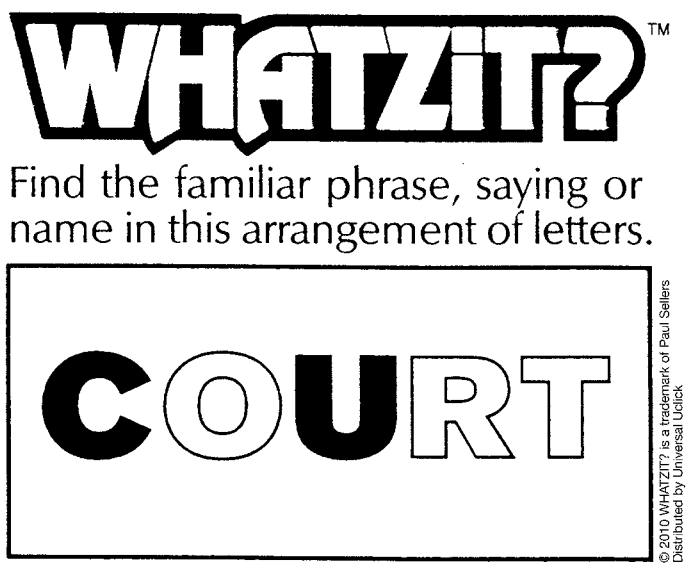
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
COURT
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Find today's solution in this section

Bogut scores 25, Bucks beat Celtics

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Andrew Bogut scored 25 points and had 17 rebounds as the Milwaukee Bucks beat another Eastern Conference heavyweight, making a fourth-quarter comeback to beat the Boston Celtics 86-84 on Tuesday night.

Carlos Delfino added 19 points for Milwaukee in a game that featured a heated on-court confrontation between Bucks rookie Brandon Jennings and the Celtics' Glen Davis midway through the fourth quarter.

The Bucks went on an 18-9 run from there, grabbing an 86-79 lead on Jennings' floating jumper in the lane with 2:42 left.

Rajon Rondo converted a three-point play, then Kevin Garnett hit a jumper to cut the lead to two with 53 seconds left. Paul Pierce missed a potential game-tying shot just before the final horn. Rondo had 20 points for Boston.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Andrew Bogut, right, dunks the ball over the Boston Celtics' Glen Davis in the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Mar. 9, 2010, in Milwaukee.

Lakers 109, Raptors 107

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant hit a 17-foot fallaway jump shot with 1.9 seconds left as Los Angeles rallied in the fourth quarter to snap its three-game losing streak.

Chris Bosh hit a 3-pointer with 9.5 seconds left to level it for the Raptors, who outplayed the defending champions for most of the first three quarters before losing on another big shot by Bryant, who scored 14 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter.

Andrew Bynum scored 22 points and Pau Gasol had 17 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who returned from a winless road trip to beat Toronto for the eighth straight time at Staples Center.

Bosh scored 22 points in his second game back from a seven-game injury absence, and Andrea Bargnani had 21.

Bobcats 83, Heat 78

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Stephen Jackson scored 17 points, Raymond Felton added 15 points and 11 assists as Charlotte used a fourth-quarter comeback to beat Miami in a key game for playoff positioning in the Eastern Conference.

The Bobcats (31-31) reached .500 at the latest point in their six-year history and moved level with Miami (32-32) as they both tussle with Chicago for the last two playoff spots.

Charlotte moved to 3-0 against Miami and clinched the tiebreaker by rallying from nine points down with 9 minutes left.

Dwyane Wade scored 27 points, but passed up a tying shot in the final minute, then clanged a tying 3-point attempt in the final seconds for the Heat, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Jazz 132, Bulls 108

At Chicago, Deron Williams got the better of Derrick Rose, finishing with 28 points and a season-high 17 assists, and CJ Miles scored a season-best 26 points to lead Utah.

Williams threw down a hard dunk on Rose during a 13-1 run late in the third quarter that broke a 77-all score and sent Utah to its 22nd win in 27 games. Miles scored 18 in the fourth, hitting four of his six 3-pointers, as the Jazz outscored Chicago 40-27 and secured at least a .500 record for the 26th time in 27 years.

With 25 points and 13 assists, Rose didn't exactly get dominated in a matchup of star point guards. But the Bulls equaled a season high with their fifth straight loss even though Brad Miller scored 20.

Magic 113, Clippers 87

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 22 points and 15 rebounds as Orlando beat Los Angeles to equal a season high with six straight victories.

Jameer Nelson had 17 points and Rashard Lewis added 15 to help the Magic take a 26-point halftime lead and cruise to a blowout after beating the Lakers in an NBA finals rematch Sunday.

Trail Blazers 88, Kings 81

At Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored 19 points and hit a clinching jump shot with just over two minutes left to lead Portland to its fifth straight victory over Sacramento.

Roy added eight rebounds for Portland. Nicolas Batum and Andre Miller each scored 14 points.

Marcus Camby returned after sitting out the Blazers' last game, a 118-106 loss at Denver, with a sprained left ankle.

Tyreke Evans had 18 points for the Kings, who have lost three straight overall. Carl Landry finished with 17 points and eight rebounds.

Pacers 107, 76ers 96

At Indianapolis, Dahntay Jones scored 25 points to help Indiana end a four-game losing streak.

Brandon Rush had 24 points and nine rebounds, and Troy Murphy added 19 points for the Pacers (21-43), who won for just the second time in nine games. Indiana played without leading scorer Danny Granger, suspended one game by the NBA for his part in an altercation in Phoenix on Saturday.

Jrue Holiday scored 21 points and Samuel Dalembert added 16 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks for the 76ers (23-40). Philadelphia has dropped six of eight since Allen Iverson left the team for personal reasons.

Rockets 96, Wizards 88

At Washington, Luis Scola had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Kevin Martin scored 21 points as Houston moved back above .500.

The Rockets took the lead for good midway through the second quarter and were hardly threatened in the second half by the Wizards, who have lost four straight and six of seven.

Aaron Brooks added 14 points and Trevor Ariza returned from an injury to score 13 for the Rockets, who won despite shooting 38 percent to the Wizards' 42.

Dunleavy, Los Angeles Clippers sever ties

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mike Dunleavy and the Los Angeles Clippers parted company for good Tuesday, barely a month after he relinquished his head coaching duties to focus solely on being general manager.

Now that arrangement is over, with the team announcing his departure in an e-mailed statement. Assistant general manager Neil Olshey will take over Dunleavy's job.

"The team has simply not made sufficient progress during Dunleavy's seven-year tenure," the statement said. "The Clippers want to win now. This transition, in conjunction with a full commitment to dedicate unlimited resources, is designed to accomplish that objective."

At the time, Dunleavy said, "I thought, 'It's time for me to give somebody else a shot, you're burnt out on this.'"

After the Clippers lost 113-87 in Orlando on Tuesday night, they are 12th in the Western Conference standings with a 25-39 record.

Players were notified of the decision during interim coach Kim Hughes' postgame speech.

"At this point, nothing surprises me," point guard Baron Davis said. "We're moving in a different direction. We've been on the road, so there's not much that we know. You all found out before we did."

Dunleavy stepped down as coach Feb. 4. He was replaced by Hughes, then an assistant.

"I thought Mike was going to focus on being the GM and that's what I thought was going to be the course of event. I'm a little bit shocked it occurred," Hughes said. "I'm certainly disappointed for Mike."

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said after the game he always respected Dunleavy as a coach and thought it was unfair to pin the blame solely on Dunleavy given the Clippers' losing history.

"It's just hard to comment on anything another organization does because you don't know why or how, and multiply that about 10 with the Clippers," Van Gundy said, drawing laughs.

"No knock on Kim or anybody else, but they haven't exactly taken off since the coaching change," Van Gundy added.

Olshey had been serving as assistant GM since before the 2008-09 season. Previously, he was director of player development, assistant coach and director of player personnel.

The team said he played an important role in several transactions, including deals that brought Marcus Camby, Rasual Butler, Steve Blake, Travis Outlaw and Drew Gooden to the Clippers. Olshey also was part of the planning for the team's last four NBA drafts, including obtaining Blake Griffin as the No. 1 overall pick last season.

Griffin has missed this season because of injury.

The move comes with the Clippers having significant salary cap space in hopes of luring a top free agent this summer, an effort center Chris Kaman applauded.

"I think that whoever's decision it was to get rid of all that money, they did a good job doing it," Kaman said. "They left a lot of space for next year and can go after a big-time player. That was kind of the goal."

In 6 1/2 seasons as coach, Dunleavy was 215-325, and Los Angeles made the playoffs just once in his first six seasons, getting within one game of the Western Conference finals in 2006. The Clippers haven't been back to the playoffs since, winning just 42 games in the past two seasons.

Last month, Dunleavy said, "I wanted to stay with this organization, see things through, one way or the other. I would have rather done it as a successful coach, but on the other hand, I can see ahead. It was going to be a tough struggle all the way through."

Lakers coach Phil Jackson took a playful jab at Clippers owner Donald Sterling earlier this year when he suggested karma might be behind his Staples Center co-tenants' long history of losing and misfortune. Sterling agreed to pay $2.73 million last year to settle allegations by the government that the real-estate mogul discriminated in his renting practices.

Jackson skirted the issue of Dunleavy's departure and the so-called Clippers Curse when asked about them before the Lakers' game against Toronto, saying the Clippers' future "is really all up to the owners." When asked if Dunleavy's former job was a no-win situation, he noted the Clippers' long history of respected coaches, including Bill Fitch, Larry Brown and Alvin Gentry.

"Opportunities are opportunities in the NBA, and somebody good is always going to want to give it a shot," Jackson said.

A-Rod 'at ease' with Canadian doctor

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Yankees star Alex Rodriguez said Tuesday he is at ease with his ties to a Canadian sports doctor embroiled in cross-border investigations involving HGH and another drug, though he still hasn't talked to federal authorities about the case.

Speaking a day after Dr. Anthony Galea told The Associated Press he treated Rodriguez last year and prescribed anti-inflammatories but never gave him or any other athlete HGH, the three-time MVP said he still doesn't know when he will be interviewed by federal agents.

"I'm at ease no matter what," Rodriguez said when asked how he felt about Galea's comments.

Rodriguez sat in front of his locker at New York's spring training complex Tuesday and spoke to reporters for about 3 1/2 minutes about the situation. He seemed calm and even laughed at times.

"I got nothing new to report," he said several times.

Galea was arrested in Canada last October on four charges relating to an unapproved substance used in healing therapy called Actovegin. He is known for using a technique, called platelet-rich plasma therapy, designed to speed recovery from injuries. He has used that to treat several high-profile athletes.

Rodriguez said he feels "no pressure, not at all," even after Galea spoke about their relationship.

Rodriguez and other baseball players, including Jose Reyes and Carlos Beltran, have been contacted by U.S. federal investigators regarding Galea. The Denver Post reported Colorado Rockies closer Huston Street said he was on a list of players federal investigators wanted to interview. Reyes and Beltran each said they did not receive Human Growth Hormone from Galea.

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez warms up before a spring training baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Bradenton, Fla., Monday, March 8, 2010. AP

The Yankees third baseman said he didn't know where his interview would take place.

"I'm not sure. Maybe here. I don't know. I'm not sure," Rodriguez said. "I'm not sure where Reyes and Beltran did it. I'm not sure."

When asked if he is choosing not to talk or has been told not to speak, Rodriguez laughed and said he "thinks the latter."

This had been a relatively quiet spring for Rodriguez compared to last year, when he admitted during an awkward news conference that he used steroids from 2001-03.

Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner said the team would talk to Rodriguez after federal agents do.

"We didn't know Alex was seeing this doctor, and we've been told he's going to cooperate with the authorities in full, and he's going to answer some questions for them," Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner said after a news conference in New York. "And until that's done, there's just nothing to add."

Galea, who recently resigned as the team doctor for the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts, became the focus of authorities' attention last September when his assistant, Mary Anne Catalano, was stopped at the U.S. border in Buffalo, N.Y.

U.S. federal court documents say "20 vials and 76 ampoules of unknown misbranded drugs including Nutropin (Human Growth Hormone—HGH) and foreign homeopathic drugs" were found in a car Catalano was driving.

But Galea said Catalano only could have had a tiny, half-empty bottle or one ampoule of HGH because she was bringing the drug across the border for his own use. An ampoule is a small sealed vial which is used to contain and preserve a sample.

The 51-year-old Galea says he's taken HGH, which is banned by the major sports, for a decade because it can improve the quality of life for people over 40.

Galea was arrested Oct. 15 after a search warrant was executed at the Institute of Sports Medicine Health and Wellness Centre in Toronto. He is charged with selling Actovegin, conspiracy to import an unapproved drug, conspiracy to export a drug and smuggling goods into Canada.

Rodriguez had hip surgery a year ago and Galea said he aided with the star's rehab. Dr. Marc Philippon performed the surgery, and chiropractor Mark Lindsay - who has a history of close ties to Galea—helped monitor Rodriguez's recovery.

Even if he's cleared in the investigation, Rodriguez could be in violation of his record $275 million, 10-year contract because a team has the right to approve doctors that aren't on its medical staff.

If Rodriguez was treated without club consent, any attempt to determine whether he violated the contract's guarantee language or baseball's collective bargaining agreement likely would hinge on whether treatment was elective or necessary.

Free agent Terrell Owens will meet with Bengals

CINCINNATI (AP)—Terrell Owens headed to Cincinnati on Tuesday to see if the Bengals are interested in adding him to their stalled-out passing game.

The 36-year-old receiver tweeted on Tuesday that he was on his way to meet with team officials. Receiver Chad Ochocinco has been lobbying for the Bengals to sign Owens since the end of last season, when the Bengals' passing game lacked a deep threat.

"En route (at) Natti land!!" Owens tweeted. "i'll let u guys know how the mtg went! Cn't go 2 bad considering the pursuit of tht Lombardi shiny thing!!"

The Bengals went 10-6 and won the AFC North last season by relying on their defense and their running game. They lost to the New York Jets in their first playoff game since 2005, struggling to move the ball.

Cincinnati needs at least one proven receiver after releasing Laveranues Coles, who lasted only one season with the Bengals. Receiver Matt Jones, who was out of the NFL last season after Jacksonville released him for off-field problems, has signed a one-year deal with the Bengals.

It's unclear whether they have much interest in Owens, whose production declined each of the last two seasons with Dallas and Buffalo. Former Tampa Bay receiver Antonio Bryant was in Cincinnati on Tuesday.

Owens, a six-time Pro Bowl receiver, had 69 catches for 1,052 yards and 10 touchdowns with Dallas in 2008, and dropped off to 55 catches for 829 yards with five touchdowns last season in Buffalo.

Owens and Ochocinco are represented by agent Drew Rosenhaus, who didn't return a phone message Tuesday. Rosenhaus told Sirius NFL Radio on Friday night that he had talked to the Bengals about Owens, but wasn't sure where the team was headed.

Bryant had career highs with 83 catches for 1,248 yards and seven touchdowns in 2008 with Tampa Bay. He needed surgery for torn cartilage in his left knee during training camp last year, and was bothered by pain in the knee all season. He finished with 39 catches for 600 yards and four touchdowns.

Cincinnati's passing offense finished 26th in the league last season even though Carson Palmer was back from an elbow injury. The Bengals didn't have a reliable third-down receiver - T.J. Houshmandzadeh left as a free agent for Seattle before last season - and Coles failed to blend into the offense.

The Bengals also lacked a deep threat after Chris Henry got hurt. Henry later died in a fall from a truck during a domestic dispute.

Getting a receiver and a tight end are among the team's top priorities in free agency and the draft.

Chiefs sign free agent RB *Thomas Jones*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs' running game just got a big boost.

The Chiefs signed free agent running back Thomas Jones, who led the New York Jets to the AFC championship game last season and was the NFL's third-leading rusher.

The team announced the deal Tuesday, but declined to disclose the terms.

Jones had career highs of 1,402 yards and 14 touchdowns last season, a year after being selected for the Pro Bowl following a season in which he ran for 1,312 yards and 13 touchdowns.

The 31-year-old Jones is expected to complement third-year running back Jamaal Charles, who was Kansas City's MVP last season with 1,120 yards rushing and seven touchdowns.

Despite Jones rushing for 1,000 or more yards for the fifth straight season, the Jets cut ties with him when free agency began last Friday. He was due a $3 million roster bonus on top of a $2.8 million base salary this season, and Jones and the Jets failed to reach a compromise on restructuring his contract. The team wanted him to take a pay cut, and Jones declined.

Jones sat out voluntary activities last offseason while trying unsuccessfully to renegotiate his deal, which was front-loaded over the first two seasons. He made only $900,000 in base salary last season, but didn't allow it to affect his play.

Jones was a major reason the Jets ranked first in the league with 172.2 yards rushing per game, and helped New York within a game of the Super Bowl. He appeared to tire down the stretch as rookie Shonn Greene got the bulk of the carries, but Jones has said he feels he can play another four or five seasons because of the terrific shape he keeps himself in.

He was drafted seventh overall in 2000 by the Arizona Cardinals. He was traded to Tampa Bay in 2003, went to Chicago the following year as a free agent and was traded to the Jets in 2007.

Jones ranks second only to LaDainian Tomlinson, also a free agent, in yards rushing since 2005. Jones ranks 28th on the career list with 9,217 yards, 190 behind Earl Campbell.

Taitano advances to St. Paddy's Day tourney

Patrick Taitano didn't lose a game Sunday and grabbed the sixth spot in USS Peliliu Club's St. Patrick's Day 8-Ball Tournament.

Qualifying tournaments tonight and Sunday will determine the last two players in the eight-player field competing for the $100 first prize on March 17. Taitano joins previous winners Larry Briones, Mei Rengiil, Taylor Watanabe, Rick Rengiil, and Ron Chisato.

Taitano rolled by Tee Minor, Konrad Reyes, and Bernard Kileleman to top the winner's bracket. Reyes had defeated Erina Olkeriil, while Kileleman outdueled sibling Tyrone Kileleman.

Olkeriil outlasted Tyrone Kileleman in the loser's bracket, but Minor moved to the loser's bracket final by topping Reyes and Olkeriil.

Bernard Kileleman stopped that run, then fell to Taitano for a second time.

Sign-up for the Thursday and Sunday tournaments start at 7:30pm.

All games are 8-ball, double elimination, and follow Billiard Congress of America rules. For more information, contact Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

Patrick Taitano went unscathed Sunday en route to winning USS Peliliu Club's qualifier for the St. Patrick's Day 8-Ball Tournament set for March 17.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fernandez tops February tourney

Newcomer Joseph Fernandez won the February Ace of the Month Tournament of the Fil-Taga Golfers Association held last month at the Mariana Country Club.

Fernandez carded a net score of 60 last Feb. 21 to top the monthly competition and join January winner Dandi Brebanario in Fil-Taga's season-ending Club Championship.

He was able to take home the February title after shooting a 47 in the front nine and a 45 in the back nine for a gross of 92, which minus his 31 handicap, gave him the lowest net score of the day.

Greg Gamboa, a 26-handicapper, came in second in the one-day tournament with his net 66 (92, 44-48), while Vic Romana settled for third place with his 68 net (92, 47-45). Romana sports a 24 handicap.

A strong field of 28 Fil-Taga members took part in the February Ace of the Month Tournament.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MORE

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category, Kennichi Yamuchi took first place (1:17:24), Masaaki Nakahara claimed second (1:18:55), and coming in third was Hiroshi Siendo (1:26:16). The women's category was topped by Mari Ozaki (1:19:39), Mika Okamoto in second (1:34:16), and Akiko Ofuchi in third (1:35:30).

The 10K Fun Run was dominated in the men's division by Takeshi Aoyama of Japan (37:51), followed by Ronald E. Villafria of the NMI (41:22), and Mitsuru Kimuru of Japan (43:18). The women's division saw the CNMI's Noriko Jim in first place (41:33) followed by Japanese Masako Uyama in second (47:57) and Akiko Miller in third (48:16).

The Saipan Marathon was a picturesque course traversing the scenic greenery of the northern part of Saipan, through the major tourism district of Garapan, and several miles along the island's western shoreline.

The race marked the first of three straight weekends of sporting events in the NMI and achieved one of its goals—to attract visitors and international media attention to the island resort destination.

The majority of runners came from outside the NMI. The highest number of runners—500—came from Japan, compared to 386 runners from Japan last year. Seven runners came from Korea, four runners hailed from the Philippines, and one runner was from South America. Just under 100 NMI runners participated. Three international media outlets from Japan covered the event.

The event included a full marathon (26.2 miles/42.195km), a half marathon (13.1 miles/21.1km), and a fun run of 10km (6.2 miles).

Each run included seven age divisions: 14 & under (15 participants), 15-19 (nine participants), 20-29 (159 participants); 30-39 (160 participants); 40-49 (117 participants); 50-59 (80 participants); and 60 and up (53 participants). In the latter group, nine runners were age 70-79, and one runner was more than 80 years old. Fifty-five percent of the entrants (327) were male, with 266 female entrants in this annual event.

Six-year-old Lennosuke Suzuki and 82-year-old Toyoko Yabutani of Japan proved they had the right stuff by finishing the 10K and full marathon, respectively.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority thanks all the sponsors and volunteers who contributed so much to the success of this year's event," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "This marathon met everyone's expectations."

Joining the MVA as major sponsors of the Saipan Marathon this year were Oakley, Delta, Timex, DFS Galleria, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Northern Marianas Athletics.

Other supporters of the event were Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and his office, Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Safety Traffic and EMS, Commonwealth Health Center, Hawaiian Rock Product, American Memorial Park, Department of Public Works, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Nippon Travel Agency, and numerous volunteers.

Aid Station Volunteers were organized by HANMI and included representatives from Mariana Resort & Spa, Palms Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, IT&E, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Pacific Development Inc., Hafadai Beach Hotel, Tasi Tours, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan Grand Hotel, World Resort Hotel, Coral Ocean Point, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

In-kind contributors included Country House Nippon, Stars & Stripes Sea Logo, Aqua Resort Club, Kinpachi Restaurant, Islander Rent-A-Car Marfega Trading, Furusato Restaurant, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Palms Resort Saipan, Thai House Restaurant, Shirley's Cafe, Saipan Shipping, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Pacific Subsea, Tasi Tours, Modern Stationary, Canton Restaurant, 360 Revolving Restaurant, J.C Tenorio Ent., Big Boy's Marine, Budget Rent A Car, Triple J Wholesale, Avis Rent A Car, Sand Castle, Island Apparel , Detry Pumping Service, HIS, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coca Cola Micronesia Company,

Next year's Saipan Marathon/Half Marathon, and 10K run is set for March 5, 2011. Planning is already underway to prepare for this event. For more information, contact MVA's Ed Diaz at 1-670-664-3200/01 or ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

MP

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GIRLS U14
Matansa 5, MP United 0

In the girls U14 division, Matansa got off to a strong start, shutting out MP United FC, 5-0.

Chelsea Leskosek made two goals for Matansa, while Almina Deleon Guerrero, and Doreen and Ann Victoria Ravell chipped in one each.

In the other girls U14 game, Tan Holdings FC was awarded a 3-0 triumph via forfeiture over Paire FC.

GIRLS U18
Matansa 4, Paire 0

Matansa was also victorious in the girls' U18 division game, drilling a similar shutout win over Paire, 4-0.

Jacque Wonenberg had a pair of goals for Matansa to hand the defending champion Paire its first loss of the season. Also scoring for Matansa were Elisa Fejeran and Madison Smith.

Wonenberg's first goal was courtesy of a Smith's assist, while the second one was off Fejeran's feed.

BOYS U18
Paire 6, MP United 2

In the boys U18, Paire Football Club handed defending champion MP United a 6-2 beating.

Paire got two goals apiece from Vince Palacios and Crosby Schultz and one each from Tim Tawanpiy and Terence Lane.

Jin Han Yoon scored all two goals for MP United, which prevailed over Independents in last sprint league's finals.

In the other game in the boys U18, Independents won by forfeit against Matansa FC.

DIAMOND

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the fourth canto, his teammates stepped up, making crucial baskets.

In the first game in Division B, siblings Jessie and J.R. Mina teamed up in leading NVM Construction to its first win in three games.

Jessie had a game-high 32 points, while J.R. tallied 20. The Mina brothers scored NVM's last nine points in the game. J.R. made back-to-back baskets, while Jessie fired five straight points, giving NVM a four-point win.

James Camacho led Strikers losing cause, scoring 26 points. Strikers dropped to a 1-3 mark.

First Game

NVM 78 – Je. Mina 32, J.R. Mina 20, Surima 7, Metran 6, Quizon 4, Camacho 4, Montiz 2.

Strikers 74 – Camacho 26, Cadag 11, Guinto 10, Macoto 4, Herrera 3, Banayat 3, Castro 2, Hilario 2, Basa 2, Echaluce 2, Rey. Coroton 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-28, 43-40, 61-60, 78-74.

Second Game

Diamond 91 – Aulerio 29, Cabrera 15, Palacios 14, Jugos 11, Dela Rama 9, Anasan 4, Garcia 4, Tengco 4.

Moonlight 88 – Nonato 21, Umali 15, Bugay 8, Camacho 7, Geli 6, Illahi 6, Montano 4, Mateo 4, Villegas 4, Pablo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-25, 43-42, 64-62, 91-88.

MIEKO

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are encouraged to cross the finish line fast. They (supporters) bring all athletes to the finish line," said Carey, who thanked her family, sponsor Salomon, Brabu, Yuyu Spa, and Bike Pro for their support.

Besides her supporters, Carey also would like to give credit to the event volunteers.

"They will be outside longer than some of the athletes and they have to endure the weather, too. They wake up early to prepare things for us and they will be last person to go home after clean up. They cheer for us and give us power at aid stations. We cannot do this race without them," she said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	22	.645	—
Toronto	32	30	.516	8
Philadelphia	23	40	.365	17 1/2
New York	22	41	.349	18 1/2
New Jersey	7	56	.111	33 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	45	20	.692	—
Atlanta	40	23	.635	4
Miami	32	32	.500	12 1/2
Charlotte	31	31	.500	12 1/2
Washington	21	40	.344	22

Central Division

Cleveland	50	15	.769	—
Milwaukee	34	29	.540	15
Chicago	31	32	.492	18
Detroit	22	41	.349	27
Indiana	21	43	.328	28 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

Dallas	44	21	.677	—
San Antonio	36	25	.590	6
Memphis	33	31	.516	10 1/2
Houston	32	31	.508	11
New Orleans	32	32	.500	11 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	42	21	.667	—
Utah	41	22	.651	1
Oklahoma City	38	24	.613	3 1/2
Portland	38	28	.576	5 1/2
Minnesota	14	50	.219	28 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	47	18	.723	—
Phoenix	40	25	.615	7
L.A. Clippers	25	39	.391	21 1/2
Sacramento	21	43	.328	25 1/2
Golden State	17	46	.270	29

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte 83, Miami 78
Indiana 107, Philadelphia 96
Houston 96, Washington 88
Orlando 113, L.A. Clippers 87
Utah 132, Chicago 108
Milwaukee 86, Boston 84
Portland 88, Sacramento 81
L.A. Lakers 109, Toronto 107

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NAVY HILL STANDINGS
Division A

Rollers	4	0
Sonics	3	0
Diamond	3	0
Torch Bearers	2	1
Lynn's BBQ	2	1
Moonlight	1	3
Tropical Laundry	1	2
Viel's	1	2
Morales Team	0	3
Star Water	0	3
Koi Bar	0	1

Division B

DL Cooking Gas	3	0
QQ Rent	2	0
GEC	2	1
Pacific Pawnshop	2	1
Sparks	1	1
Managaha	1	2
NVM	1	2
Grillin'	1	2
Strikers	1	3
MTV Construction	0	2
Mix Blood	0	0

NMIFA YOUTH STANDINGS
Boys U14

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MP United-Blue	1	1	0	0	9	1	+8	3
Paire-Red	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
Tan Holdings-1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Tan Holdings-2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Independent	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
MP United-White	1	0	0	1	1	9	-8	0
Matansa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paire-Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Girls U14

Matansa	1	1	0	0	5	0	5	3
Tan Holdings	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
MP United	1	0	0	1	0	5	-5	0
Paire	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Boys U18

Paire FC	1	1	0	0	6	2	+4	3
Independent FC	1	1	0	0	0	0	+	3
MP United FC	1	0	1	1	2	6	-4	0
Matansa FC	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Girls U18

Matansa FC	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
Paire FC	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0

Tsunami Swimmers at 2010 Japan Open

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Shin Kimura, third second row, joins many swimmers at the warm-up pool.

Spectators at the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tatsumi, Koto-ku wait for the race.

Far left, Japan Swimming Federation president Kazuo Sano delivers a speech during the opening ceremony.

Left, Liam Bornovski of Palau, Daijyu Usui of Guam, and the CNMI's Kai Staal and Shin Kimura share a fun moment after the meet at the lobby of the Athletes Village.

Right, Guam's Ken Barcinas, far left, joins Kai Staal and Shin Kimura at the subway trip.

Far right, Kai Staal, center, meets several Japanese teenagers during one of his visits in a shop in Tokyo.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Shin Kimura, left, and Kai Staal, who participated in the 2010 Japan Open, pose for a souvenir photo using the competition pool at the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tatsumi, Koto-ku, as backdrop.

Kai Staal, right, gets an autograph from world record holder Therese Alshammar of Sweden.

World record holder Darian Townsend, right, of South Africa poses with Kai Staal inside the Athletes Village.

Guam, Palau, and CNMI swimmers visit Asakusa, one of the most visited places in Tokyo.

Taitano advances to St. Paddy's Day tourney

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Sports

Bogut scores 25, Bucks beat Celtics

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Mieko upbeat on XTERRA Saipan

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REPORTER

This Saturday's XTERRA Saipan Championship is Mieko Carey's first major race of 2010. It also happens to be her favorite time of the year.

"We have so many athletes from different countries. People on Saipan are excited to see them and race against them. We are planning to make them happy with the activities during the Sports Fest. I am waiting for this month to come to enjoy and share these fun events," said Carey, referring to various activities before and after this Saturday's races, such as a fun run, clinics, golf tournament, island tour, and BBQ party.

"When I meet people here, everyone is talking about big activities in three weekends this month—Saipan Marathon, XTERRA, and Tagaman. It is fun to talk to people about who is coming, how is the course, and how is one's training. Everyone works together to make all events successful," Carey added.

As for the competition aspect of XTERRA Saipan, Carey said like in the previous triathlons she had been to she will be racing against herself this weekend. In last year's XTERRA Saipan, Carey placed fourth behind eventual champion Renata Bucher, United Kingdom's Julie Dibens and U.S. pro Shonny Vanlandingham. Carey timed in at three hours, 44 minutes, and 56 seconds, as a crash somewhere in Mt. Tapochao slowed her down and caused long scratches, but shallow cuts on her right ribs.

"I have been training since December and I will do what I learned from my training. I will give my 120 percent effort on the race day. I will trust myself and focus on the trail and enjoy the race—hopefully without any problems. However, if I had some problems like broken ribs, broken shoes or something, I will have another fun story to tell," Carey said.

This weekend's race will be Mieko's second as a pro and she is more excited this year, as more female triathletes are joining the Championship course.

"This year, we will have more female triathletes than last year. I am excited to race against them. No one knows what will happen on the trail, that's why it's XTERRA. Everyone has a chance to win," Carey said.

The XTERRA Japan champion added no matter how difficult the race will be, she hopes to see more participants at the finish line and more people supporting triathletes.

"I hope many people are at the start and finish line on race day. With everyone cheering them, athletes

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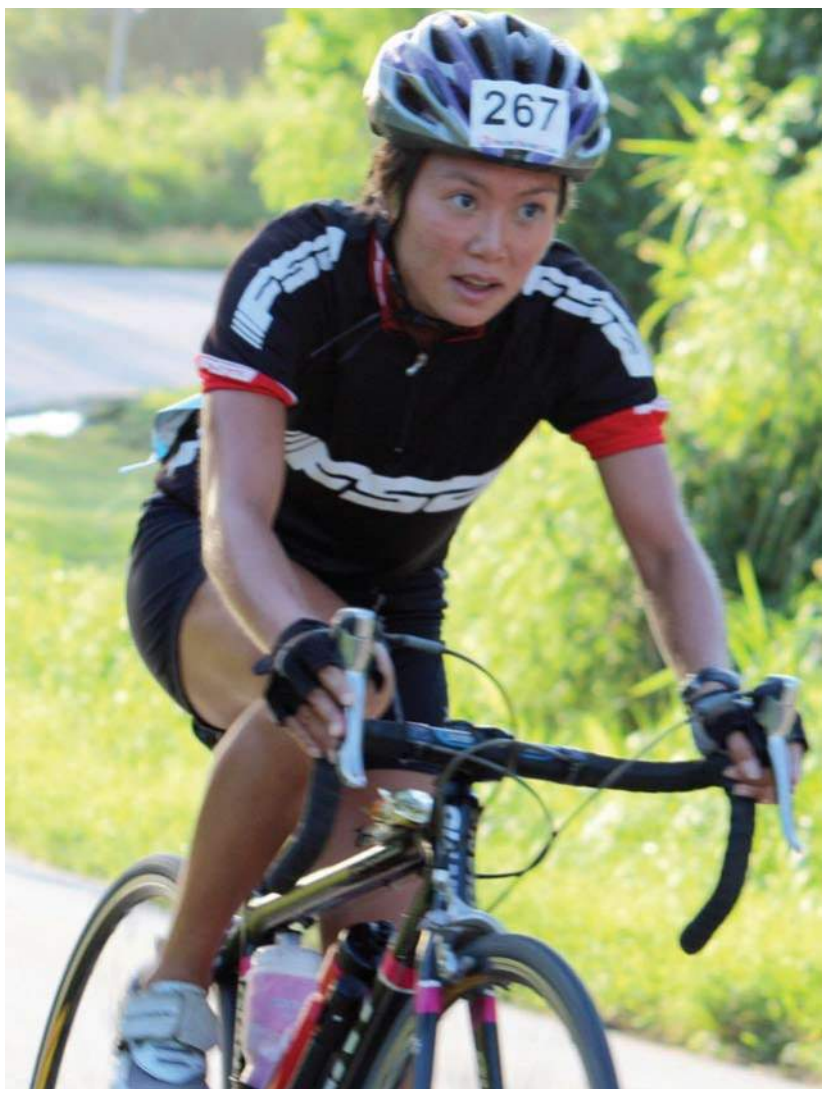

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan pro Mieko Carey, seen here competing in a local bike race last year, is looking forward to a tough competition in this Saturday's 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

MP United-Blue, Paire-Red triumph

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United-Blue's Jehn Joyner, left, hits the ball while teammate Kennedy Izuka looks on during their game against MP United-White in the boys U14 division of the NMIFA spring league on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sister teams MP United-Blue and MP-United White opened hostilities in the boys U14 division of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League with the former cruising to a 9-1 win on Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Chris Park, Angelo Jones, Nuri Malakut, and Jehn Joyner drilled two goals apiece to give MP United-Blue a rousing debut in the eight-team league. Kennedy Izuka added one goal for the winning team.

MP United-White's lone goal was courtesy of Dakota Hall. Hall's team won the championship in last year's spring season when NMIFA still had the boys U13 division. The organizing Northern Mariana Islands Football Association changed the U13 division to U14 to make room for players who are too raw for U18 division, but have competitive skills as that of U13 strikers.

Two more U13 games were played in the opening week of the spring league.

Paire FC-Red played on Field 2, opposite the venue of the MP United teams clash and the former edged Independents FC, 1-0.

Gideon Borja nailed the winning goal for Paire Red in the second half.

In the second game on Field 1, another set of sister teams collided with Tan Holdings FC 1 and 2 engaged in a 1-1 draw. Woo Seok scored for Tan Holdings FC-1, while Dan Derriz posted the game-tying goal for Tan Holdings FC-2.

Matansa Football Club and Paire-Black were scheduled to duel on Field 2 at 5:15pm, but the match was reset.

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More Japanese join, dominate 2010 Saipan Marathon

While local favorites had a strong showing in last Saturday's Saipan Marathon, there was no doubt that runners from Japan dominated the largest annual marathon in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Nearly 600 runners ages 6 to 80 took part in the race with runners from the Land of the Rising Sun sweeping the first three places in the men's division.

The 42-kilometer event was won by Masaharu Kijima (2:53:15), followed by Masahiko Nagasaka (2:58:11) and Seijiro Satake (3:02:37) in second and third places, respectively.

Topping the female marathoners, meanwhile, was Mayu Mochizuki of Japan (3:10:03) with the Commonwealth's Mamiko Berger (3:16:14) and Kimberlyn King-Hinds (3:34:53) finishing second and third.

In the half marathon, the top male and female finishers again hailed from Japan. In the men's

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsuneto Najima of Japan flashes the hang loose sign as he drives his way to the finish in last Saturday's 2010 Saipan Marathon.

Diamond still perfect; NVM books first win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Diamond remained unbeaten in the 2010 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League, following a 91-88 victory against Moonlight on Tuesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Brandon Aulerio top-scored in Diamond's third straight win, firing 29 points. However, it was Armando Anasan, Jason Palacios, and Roland Tengco's clutch baskets in the stretch that lifted Diamond to a three-point win. Anasan scored four of Diamond's last nine points, Palacios and Tengco made one field goal apiece, and Aulerio canned a free throw.

The victory put Diamond in second place in Division A, tying the Sonics. Rollers lead Division A with its 4-0 record.

Besides Aulerio, three more Diamond players scored in double figures in the team's third win in a row with Marlon Cabrera nailing 15 markers before fouling out early in the fourth period. Palacios chipped in 14, while John Jugos contributed 11.

Diamond led by as much as nine points at the start of the second quarter before R.J. Nonato and Mike Umali anchored a late rally to move within one, 42-43, at halftime.

It was a close game in the second half with Aulerio proving unstoppable for Diamond. When Aulerio was hounded in the closing minutes in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Diamond's Nelbert Dela Rama drives against three Moonlight defenders during their game in the Navy Hill caging on Tuesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.